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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXI

JANUARY 1, 1993

NO. 1

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

FATHER, LET ME DEDICATE

Father, let me dedicate All this year to Thee,
In whatever worldly state Thou wilt have me be.
Not from sorrow, pain, or care, Freedom dare I claim;
This alone shall be my prayer: "Glorify Thy name."

Can a child presume to choose Where or how to live?
Can a Father's love refuse All the best to give?
More Thou givest every day Than the best can claim,
Nor withholdest aught that may Glorify Thy name.

If in mercy Thou wilt spare Joys that yet are mine;
If on life, serene and fair, Brighter rays may shine –
Let my glad heart, while it sings, Thee in all proclaim,
And, whate'er the future brings, Glorify Thy name.

If Thou callest to the cross, And its shadow come,
Turning all my gain to loss, Shrouding heart and home –
Let me think how Thy dear Son To His glory came,
And in deepest woe pray on: "Glorify Thy name."

- Lawrence Tuttiett

WHAT WILL THE NEW YEAR BRING?

At the beginning of a new year we always wonder what will happen during the ensuing year. We are always curious, wondering if it will turn out to be a good or bad year for us.

It is a good thing that God keeps the control of the future to Himself. Men would make a total wreck of it, if it were left to them. They would choose a course that would be so alluring to them, but it would prove a failure, for they do not know what is truly the best. None of us have the power to foresee the future, so we must follow the guidance of the One, who holds the future in His Hands.

We make various plans and commitments, which we hope will turn out all right. Often our plans are made based on our understanding, rather than on the wisdom that God is willing to give to those who will seek His Will. Too often we lay our plans, taking for granted, God's approval. Yet, how often do we really seek His guidance in not only the large but even the small affairs of life? James warned that believers must be careful in their planning that they would take into account the will of the Lord.

Especially in business affairs, we are apt to follow what is thought to be good economics, without considering if what we are doing is good Christianity. In all our affairs we should be careful to consult God's Word. We can pretty well tell if our activities are godly or otherwise by what is written there. If there is any doubt, it is wise to seek the counsel of the Brethren. Others may be able to see dangers that we can not see, because we are too close to what we wish to do. We would excuse ourselves more readily than what we should.

Success in business does not mean becoming rich. It means making a living and providing needed products, services and

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employment for others. Being successful does not mean slighting the Word of God. Moral success is more important than financial success.

It is as possible to be poor and ungodly, as it is to be rich and ungodly. Poverty is not a guarantee of godliness. Poverty with godliness is no shame but it is unlikely that a godly person will face the extreme poverty known by many in this world. King David attested that throughout his lifetime, he had not known the ones, who sincerely worshipped and obeyed God, to be without the necessities of life.

We question what direction the affairs of this world will follow during the new year. There are many places, where there is warfare, famine, or drought. There are many political powder kegs ready to explode at any minute. Such an eruption could involve many other nations, which could lead to general warfare and more senseless suffering. We may express opinions concerning these situations around the world. We may offer opinions concerning the coming of a new administration in our own country. These opinions may be based upon partisan feelings or economic ideas. How often do our opinions find a basis in the Scriptures? Perhaps it would be better if we had fewer opinions concerning business, political, and world affairs and more thought and action concerning Spiritual affairs.

We, first, must consider our own relationship with God. Have we complied with the conditions of salvation, that He has revealed to us through the Bible? Each of us needs to make a personal choice and decision to comply. We cannot rely on the lives that our parents or other ancestors lived. Nor can we excuse ourselves, if they did not live the kind of lives they should have lived. God has made a plan of salvation that is the personal responsibility of each of us.

Once we have entered into that relationship and become a member of the Family of God, which includes membership in the earthly church, we must give our best effort to doing His Will. There is not one person, who ever does all that can be done. As humans we all fail, unlike Jesus we are not perfect. We must do the best we can, although we could always do better. Too often, we have to reconsider and admit that we have not followed the best course.

No matter what course the world follows, in business, economics or politics, the Christian must follow God's course. The outcome of this new year will not be so dependent upon the decisions affecting the large global affairs that most are interested in; the most important decisions will be made by individuals concerning their soul's salvation and their service unto God.

What will your new year be? Will you make the Spiritual choices necessary to have a successful year?

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"WHERE ARE WE IN '93?"

Where are we in '93? Sound like a rather strange question? Where were we in '92? That might well give us an insight to where we are today and what we will become in this year the Lord is giving us. We have concluded a year that will be long remembered. It was full of strife in the world and morality seemed to slump to an all time low. The world is far from being what God created it to be... in harmony with Him and His laws. Was it a shadow of things to come? Will this confrontation with God exacerbate in '93? Where will we be in this picture? Will we be growing in grace? Will we be standing firm on the promises of God? Or, will we begin to blend more and more into the status quo of the world and hardly be identifiable at all as being a part of the forever family of God?

Will 1993 be different? Have we made a resolve before God to be more like the Master this coming year?

It would seem that we have begun this writing with a lot of questions and rightly so. In order to come up with answers we must ask questions.

Will the world be an easier place to live in this year than it was in the past year? It is certainly doubtful. The situations politically across the globe show great instability. We see a continuing emergence of high technology, globalism, new streams of world commerce, new harmful methods of public education and dozens of other things. Materialism abounds and it would seem inevitable there will continue to be a persistent, if not an accelerated, moral decline. The evils of this year will be complicated because man has not accepted the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. The only way to relief of the tense world situation is acceptance of God's only begotten Son or by divine intervention.

Intervention, you say? Yes. What form could intervention take? Many forms, but the one we most anticipate as Christians is the taking of the Church. The Bible specifically tells us that there is a generation of Christians who will not die. Rather, the Bible teaches that Christ Himself will descend from Heaven and take the believers home to be with Himself. The events of our time should certainly expand our anticipation of this great event.

1993 will hold great opportunity for the righteous people of the earth. The world is ready for harvest. We must proclaim the message with greater determination and vigor than we have done in the past. We must use every opportunity to reach out to the wicked world that they might turn to God.

How, in this challenging environment, can we do this? How can we be a good witness in times like these? We have got to become

better prepared Bible students. We have got to cultivate methods in evangelism. We have need of "spiritual backbone" and motivation. We have to get the Word out.

We look forward to Jesus' coming for us... but how wonderful to think He will also take those to whom we have communicated the Gospel of Christ and who have accepted Him as their personal Saviour. Think of it. Could we be celebrating the holiday season next year around the very throne of God? Awesome! It is certainly a very real possibility and that should fill our hearts with joyful anticipation for the year ahead of us.

So, this year is bringing with it great opportunity for us as Christians to witness with God Himself certifying the things for which we have stood for a lifetime.

If we agree that Christ might come before the end of '93, what will we want to be found doing? This question should remind us that this must be a year of prayer, of extended effort, of earnest outreach. It may well present us with the greatest opportunity for world evangelism that Church has ever seen. Will we accept the challenge? Where are we in '93?

Brother Len Wertz

STARTING THE NEW YEAR FRESH

Psalm 40:1-3, "I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD."

Hebrews 12:1, "WHEREFORE seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."

If the Lord should tarry, by the time you read this it will be a new year. Each of us should search our heart and desire to start the new year fresh for our Lord. It can be like taking a fresh drink of water. We are not a water drinker, as such. However, there have been a few times that we have had the opportunity to drink fresh water from a spring. This water seemed to have a taste of its own that even bottled spring water fails to duplicate.

The Psalmist says, "I waited patiently for the LORD." One of the first lessons we must learn in the new year is that of patience. Most of us are running so fast spiritually that the Lord has no time to catch up! Do we take the time to read the Bible and allow the Holy Spirit to teach us the truths therein? Or do we only read a verse occasionally and allow that to be sufficient? We are presently

reading through the book of Leviticus for our personal Bible study. We have found this to be very trying of our patience. We have read the Bible through several times already and each time we come to portions of Scripture such as this we are tempted to just skip them. In this case it would be easy to skip the entire book. However, we realize that by doing so we might miss a real blessing God has for us. If nothing else, we may learn to be more patient, which is one of our own personal weaknesses.

The writer of Hebrews tells us we are to "run with patience the race that is set before us." Therefore, patience includes not only taking the time to read the Word of God but living it out. After we have waited for the Lord to give us instructions for our life we must patiently put things into practice. When we have witnessed to our family and others we come into contact with and we see little or even no results do we lose our patience? God did not lose patience with some of us who refused His call time and time again before we finally yielded. He did not even lose patience with some of us when we left our first love and returned to the world.

Do you recall the time when God brought you out of that horrible pit? When life no longer seemed worth living? It may have been the pit of despair, the pit of loneliness or the pit of pain and sickness. Most of us have found ourselves in some situation in life that seemed like a dark, deep pit. When God released you from that pit it made you feel like a new person.

Now that God has released us "let us lay aside every weight." There will be times in the future that God will have to again give us victory over a pit. But we should not carry those problems along with us that God has already delivered us from.

God has taken us out of the miry clay of sin. This does not mean that we are now sinless, but it does mean that sin should not have rule over us. Therefore, we are to lay aside the sin which doth so easily beset us. We cannot do this of our own power. The Lord has given us the Holy Spirit to give us power over sin in our life. However, if we still love sin we cannot expect the Holy Spirit to help us in this area.

God has set our feet upon a rock. This rock is, of course, the Lord Jesus Christ. In this new year we should try to love Him even more and desire to follow all His teachings. The cloud of witnesses referred to by the writer of Hebrews is probably the Old Testament Saints referred to in the previous chapter. They looked forward to the time of a new beginning when their Messiah would rule and reign. Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of their desire. However, His rule and reign was not a political rule as the Jewish people perceived. He established a spiritual kingdom built upon the rock of the Word of God. When we set our lives upon the solid rock of Holy Scripture we will rest upon the Rock of our salvation.

God has established our goings. Many within the established church should pray for God to direct their steps in the coming year. The writer of Hebrews says we are running a race that is set before us. But before we can run we must first learn to walk. The reason many professing Christians are still running to the pleasures of this world is because they have never really learned to walk with their Lord.

God has put a new song in our mouth, even praise to our God. This new year let us purpose in our heart to give praise to our Lord both in word and deed. If we live the life we speak "many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord." Perhaps we will not see the end results. But God has promised to bless our obedience. Let us not be weary in well doing.

Have you been brought out of the horrible pit of Hell, out of the miry clay of sin and set upon the rock, Jesus Christ? If not, accept God's love through the shed blood of His Son and start 1993 a new and fresh year.

Bro. James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

May the Lord make my New Year a happy
one...

Not by shielding me from sorrow and
pain, but by strengthening me to bear
it if it comes.

Not by taking hardship from me,
but by taking all cowardice and fear
from my heart as I meet hardships.

Not by making my path easy, but by
making me sturdy enough to tread any
path.

Not by granting unbroken sunshine,
but by keeping my face bright even in
the shadows.

Not by making my life always pleasant,
but by showing me where others and His
cause need me most and by making me
zealous to be there and to help...

God, make my year a happy one.

- Selected by Sister Almeda Strayer

ARE YOU A CONTENDER?

Acts 10:1 - 11:18

"And the apostles and brethren that were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him, Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised..." Acts 11:1-3a.

As I considered this seemingly repetitious and insignificant verse I thought back to an experience I had in the last few days that has haunted me since. It has made me feel a little like Peter, only with a modern day application.

I was walking through downtown New York with my wife and friends when we came upon a street person. He was dressed quite shabbily as you can well imagine. The three pairs of pants which hung loosely from his undernourished body were in various stages of decay and had rotted off by degrees. Those pairs on the outside being the shortest and most tattered. The sole of his left shoe was completely detached from its leather upper and was "bandaged" into place with shoe laces of various colors which wound tightly around the entire shoe.

The other noteworthy thing I noticed in our encounter of mere moments was the way in which he held the hot dog in his hands. A look akin to worship was present in his piercing brown eyes. He clutched it tightly giving one the impression that it was the first, last and only hot dog he had ever eaten in his life.

I felt moved to stop him and try to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with him and then thought better of breaking into his revelry with the hot dog. Now I am ashamed.

When I read of how much Peter had to go through to share the Gospel with the Gentiles, people that he hated, people he thought to be unclean I am ashamed.

How much good the WORD could have done for a man whose heart may well have been tied together just as make shiftly as were his shoes. His life had to be as tattered and thread bare as his pants. Jesus specialized in touching those outcasts of society. He offers freedom and refuge to all. His was a royalty that deserved satin sheets and golden cradles, yet he submitted Himself willingly to the dirt in the sheep pen.

Isn't it interesting that Jesus didn't go striding into the courts of Herod and announce that the divine "King of the Jews" was now on the scene!? He never confronted the Sadducees with a direct demand for recognition and power. He didn't choose a herald to trumpet it from the walls of Jerusalem. Rather, it was in the shade of Jacob's well, in a disdained land near the tomb of a patriarch,

just after noon that He chose to whisper the news of His arrival as God incarnate into the ear of a Samaritan woman!! John 4:1-38.

Of all places to break the glad tidings officially! Samaria! Of all the Samaritans to be told!! A woman!! Of all women to receive the glorious news that heaven's pardon for sin sat at her feet... and wanted a drink from her hand – a five time divorcee!! The man she was living with now refused to marry her!!

Even New York would be hard pressed to produce a less likely candidate to receive these royal tidings. Yet Christ freely offered to her the opportunity to partake freely of the WORD of Life! He had that amazing ability to look past the obvious and see the need within a soul. From his vantage point she was just another soul in need of a Savior. Another reason for Him to spread His arms wide in that last act of love done on a Roman tree. He saw her as the ripe grain ready for harvest.

Notice in Acts 10:44 that while Peter yet spake, the Holy Ghost fell on the Gentiles. I think that's because Peter would have talked all night and into the next day about all the things Christ did, but would never have extended an invitation for them to believe. Peter didn't think they were fit to be saved. They weren't "chosen"! They weren't choice "believer material"! Peter would have left the house after merely "educating" them.

God however poured forth freely of the Holy Ghost upon Cornelius and his household. This was probably the first time Peter ever stuttered!! He was so astonished, verse 45, that God had extended the Gospel to these unclean, despicable Gentiles, and had given it heavenly credentials with the witness of the Holy Spirit, verse 47, showing Peter beyond doubt that these Gentiles were as precious to God as His own brethren had been.

Oh, that God would open our eyes to the fields, white and ready for harvest. It is my prayer that we would be "contenders" in the context of Jude 3. "Epagonizomai" – to struggle FOR, instead of Acts 11:2, "contenders", "Diakrino" – opposing, discriminating, withdrawing from.

I wonder how often we don't share the Gospel because we don't think "those" kinds of people have a place in our lives? It would seem we try to stake out OUR claim for a certain type of Christian and fail God by letting other hungry hearts go by without showing Christ to them. We may spend a lot of time telling others what Christ has done for us, yet never extend to them an invitation to share in "our" treasure. I think how much better we could all do if we could just view each other through eyes that saw only reborn saints instead of unregenerate sinners. I think of how many people each day we pass by and think not to offer them the gift that God has so freely given to them as well. I recall not inviting others to

church because I think they would be "out of place" ... and I am ashamed.

Brother Galen Shelly
111 Maple Ave.
Hanover, PA 17331

SIXTY YEARS AGO

January 1, 1933

WHAT IS POVERTY?

L. A. Shumake

Whenever we see the word poverty we indistinctly think of money. To be moneyless and wealthless is indeed a tragedy, but it is not the worst kind. One may have an empty purse and a rich personality, or vice versa.

If a man has no wealth, but has a chance to earn his livelihood, his brain may be filled with hope. For that matter, the so called material wealth of this earth has been built up most often through the genius of poor men, who remained poor, yet made many rich.

I am thinking of the terrible poverty of our intellectual lives. It causes me to think of the man who hid his lord's talent in the earth. Yes, Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." He also gave us example we should be about our Father's business.

The ultimate depths of poverty are found in bankruptcy of moral character. One may have money, friends and knowledge but he is poor who is not rich toward God. Many are the fine specimens of human intelligence I have known, men and women, who gave promise of noble service in His kingdom, some were natural leaders too, that are now clothed in rags, and filth. Sitting with folded hands refusing to go in, and hindering those that would enter in. They seemingly are too lazy to say, "Give us this day our daily bread."

"Sleuthfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger." (Prov. 19:15).

We cannot deny that the world is in an awful condition as a result of forgetting God. What is the remedy? Just now men everywhere are suggesting plans to alleviate the suffering of the poor, providing food, clothing, and so forth. Why not make it a balanced ration? "Man cannot live by bread alone but by every word of God." Let us get our Bibles down, wipe off the dust and turn to Isaiah 55, these 13 verses should give us a hungering and thirsting after righteousness that would cause the rains to fall and

the earth to bring forth its fruit, and I will walk among you and be your God, and ye shall be My people." (Lev. 26:12).

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, David knew God and the ways of His people, he said, "I have been young and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor His seed begging bread." Our condition temporally and spiritually is made up of causes and effects. Many who have been brought down to a mere pittance can trace the cause to "riotous living," spending for that which is not bread, and do nothing about it but murmur. The effect is awful – to think of the children, family ties are broken, it is heartrending. Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Jesus gives us the picture in Luke 15:11-32 of a wealthy boy, how he wasted his substance and come to the place of feeding hogs, a new day dawned; he resolved to better his condition, he said, "I will arise and go to my father, and will say, father I have sinned against heaven and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son." And he arose and come to his father.

Many leaders and statesmen of today are of the opinion that we must return to the primitive religion before we can prosper materially. "Even from the day of your father ye have gone away from Mine ordinances, and have not kept them; return unto Me and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts." (Mal. 3:7).

May we so live that we may be ready to go in to the feast where there will be bread for all and to spare.

THE MIRACLES OF CHRIST AS RECORDED IN GOD'S WORD

3. STILLING THE STORM

Matthew 8:23-27

Matthew 8:23-27, "And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!"

The worth of this miracle is no small amount. He and His disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee by boat. Do not picture in your mind a modern steam or diesel driven vessel. It, in all likelihood, a fishers boat manned with oars. Webster defines, "tempest" as a violent storm with high winds accompanied by heavy rainfall.

The Bible states that the tempest was GREAT. We, perhaps would have called it a cyclone. The waves were so high they covered the ship. Jesus was asleep. The disciples were not sleeping. They were scared. So much so that they awoke Jesus, saying, Lord, save us; we perish. One of the other Gospel writers said, "Careth thou not that we perish?" O ye of little faith? Then He arose and rebuked the sea, and there was a GREAT CALM!

I am a firm believer that as great as the waves were, after Jesus rebuked the waves the Good Book states that there was a GREAT CALM. I believe the sea was as smooth as glass.

THE MIRACLE HERE IS THAT JESUS COULD CAUSE A VERY SEVERE STORM ON THE WATER OF GALILEE and then turned it into a great calm, according to His Divine Will.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS MIRACLE?

God and Christ control the weather. Jesus was calm during the storm. He was with them in the storm. He will be with us in times of danger and distress. He denounced their lack of faith. He'll pronounce the same upon us if we demonstrate faith and trust in Him.

They arrived safely at their destination. We will arrive safely on Yonder Shore, if we have Jesus in our hearts.

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44718

ACCOUNTABLE

Hebrews 13:17, "... for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account,..."

Romans 14:12, "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

At the hospital at which this writer works, each shift is issued an assignment sheet each day. Jobs are assigned to each individual and when they are completed the person places his initials beside the assignment. These sheets are kept for years, and in the event of an incident or law suit the sheets can be referred to and the proper person approached in order that he or she might give an account. If you were assigned the job and you did not do it, you are accountable.

The New Testament speaks much about giving an account, being counted worthy, things being credited to our account, and the like. Romans 14:12 says, "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." What is it about these words that folks

fail to understand? How is it that millions of people over the centuries have read these words and seemingly "overlooked" them?

Today we see many paradoxical titles that make no sense to us: "Lesbians for Christ" or "Gays for Christ." How is it that so many have missed the point? Can we have Jesus and keep our sins? Can we love the Lord and at the same time the deeds of our flesh? Can we look our life over after having examined the Holy Scriptures, and properly give an account?

But you say, and rightly so, "Nobody is perfect." That is why we need Jesus as our Saviour. We are too sinful and imperfect to save ourselves. Our righteousness is no better than filthy rags and we cannot count on it for salvation. People often tell Christians, "You are such a good person. Surely God will save you." Our goodness will not save us. Our works will not save us. When we get to the judgment seat we better not stand before God alone. We better have an advocate then, just as we must have an advocate now. Jesus must stand up for us when that time comes. We need to trust Him, not only to save us, but to help us to live a victorious life in this world and to be examples.

Most of the patients in our hospital have mental problems. Some can no longer function in the world. They must be sheltered and have their needs met by others. They must be protected and others must sometimes be protected from them. Jesus can save us, once we realize we cannot save ourselves: once we realize we need a Saviour to protect us and shelter us from the storms of life.

The assignment sheets we fill out each night are kept indefinitely. The Lord is keeping a record, and everyone will have an account to give someday. The record books will be opened. Will He be ashamed of us on that Great Day, or will He open His arms and bid us, "Welcome Home"?

Brother Lynn H. Miller

OBITUARY

VIOLET REPLOGLE

Sis. Violet E. (Scott) Replogle of 23453 County Road 42, Goshen, Indiana, died November 23, 1992 in her home. She was formerly a resident of West Milton, Ohio. Born February 11, 1908 in or near Colon, Michigan, she was a daughter of the late Elgin Scott and Grace (Blood) Adams.

Survivors include her husband, George Edward Replogle; two sons, Elgin Replogle of Goshen, Indiana and Thomas Replogle of Tipp City, Ohio; three daughters, Eleanor Parker of Goshen, Indiana, Retha Corbin of Joliet, Illinois and Nancy Schlafman of

Ludlow Falls, Ohio. Also two brothers, Don Adams of Goshen, Indiana and J. D. Adams of Columbus, Ohio; a special friend, Tommilee Merriman of Joliet, Illinois, twenty-three grandchildren; many great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

One granddaughter and one grandson preceded her in death; also one brother, Dan Adams.

Sister Replogle was a former member of the Englewood, Ohio Dunkard Brethren Church and presently a member of the Goshen, Indiana Dunkard Brethren Church.

She will be greatly missed by her family, friends and neighbors.

Funeral services were held on Friday, November 27, 1992 in the Englewood, Ohio Dunkard Brethren Church. Elder H. Edward Johnson, Bro. Dean St. John and Elder Paul Stump officiated at the church services. Bro. Terry Gunderman officiated at the burial service in Miami Memorial Park near Covington, Ohio.

A TRIBUTE TO MOTHER

Mother – One who loves and cares from her heart, your special, faithful friend. Our Mother was there for each of us and unselfishly gave of herself for us, her children. Mother was our provider, our protector, our peacemaker. What delicious homemade bread, baked beans and other goodies she baked for us; how awakening it was to hear her voice call you in the morning; how much fun it was to play family games with her; how understanding were the expressions of her eyes; how she instilled in us the important value to care for others before yourself; how she reminded us of the reality of trust in the Lord completely; how she loved the church hymns and her brothers and sisters in the Church.

MOTHER – No one can ever
take away those
precious memories
of one who loved
so unconditionally.
Thank you, Lord,
for giving her to
us. We love you,
Mother.

Your Children -

Eleanor, Elgin, Retha, Thomas and Nancy

NEWS ITEMS

NOTICE

Anyone sending an offering to the Torreon Navajo Mission Board should send it to the Secretary, Brother James Meyers, 2641 205th Street, Dallas Center, Iowa 50063. Checks should be made out to Brother Marlin Jamison, the Treasurer.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

We, the Waynesboro Congregation are rejoicing. On September 13, 1992 Robert Bollman was baptized and Darlene Long was received back into the fold.

Again, on November 7, 1992 we gathered at the baptismal waters. This time Jerry and Naomi Martin along with four of their children, Clarence, Rachel, Richard and Velma were baptized.

Remember each of us in prayer as we strive to unitedly work together for the Lord.

Sister Janet Shaffer, Cor.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

MY PRAYER

Dear Lord, we are thanking you
With thoughts we cannot express,
For sending us souls to help
Win others for You to bless.

David Rice, and his wife Bonnie,
You have heard their names before,
Lord help us each our duty to do,
For it is Your Great Name we implore.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

A NOTE OF THANKS

We wish to thank each one who sent us cards for our 50th Wedding Anniversary. We received one hundred and sixty-six and appreciated each one. May God bless you richly for your thoughtfulness.

Brother Frank and Sister Martha Shaffer

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXI

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NO. 2

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE HAPPY HOME

Happy the home, when God is there,
And love fills ev'ry breast;
Where one their wish, and one their pray'r,
And one their heav'ny rest.

Happy the home where Jesus' name
Is sweet to ev'ry ear;
Where children early lisp his fame
And parents hold him dear.

Happy the home where pray'r is heard,
And praise is wont to rise;
Where parents love the sacred word,
And live but for the skies.

Lord! let us in our homes agree,
This blessed peace to gain;
Unite our hearts in love to thee,
And love to all will reign.

Selected

FAMILY

One of our dearest relationships in this world is that of family. Although many do not enjoy the privileges of a family, those who do, should be very appreciative of the privilege. Each family is different. Each has its own traditions, habits and relationships. Some families are emotional; others are very low-key. Some are very open and demonstrative of their feelings, while others do not show much open affection. The degree of openness does not change the basis of the love that exists in the family, only its outward expression.

It is often during holidays that families come together and learn to appreciate each other more warmly than at other times of the year. Whether in the exchange of presents or the sharing of a meal or just in being together, family members learn to enjoy being together with each other. These rekindled relationships are especially meaningful when family members are separated by vast distances, so they only gather occasionally.

Families differ in the depth of feeling involved for the extended family. Some families, either because of distance or social disruptions, consist primarily of the immediate family. Other families are very widely extended, including cousins, removed several times, and the in-laws. Family reunions are good times to renew and reestablish the feeling of family amongst those who are a part of the extended family.

Families are the most important not at the holidays and reunions, but in the times of crisis. When support is needed to meet the hard situations that arise in people's lives, it is good when there is family to rely upon. Whatever the need, the presence and help of the family is always appreciated. The help can take many forms. It

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may be financial. It may be sound advice. It may be medical care. It may be child-care. It may be comfort during sorrow. It is good to have those who can be depended upon during life's crisis. That is the value of family.

The family is a source of learning. It is within the family that children are taught not only basic academic subjects, but many cultural and social lessons. It is within the family, where the first and most impressive Spiritual teaching takes place. Some families strive to teach, while others teach without fully understanding. The teaching goes on whether it is conscious or not. The family leaves some kind of message, intentional or not.

Unfortunately there are many modern families, which do not function as families should. The members of the family do not interact in a harmonious way. The parents do not have love or respect for each other. Perhaps one parent is absent from the home. The children and parents are separated, even though they live in the same house. Here the basis of love and cooperation is lacking because the foundation of the home is not built solidly upon Biblical principles. As we see the recent increase in dysfunctional families, we know that it does not bode well for the future. These present dysfunctional homes will breed more dysfunctional homes in coming generations.

As important as our natural families are to us, the most important family that we can be a part of is the family of God. The plan of salvation as delivered to man by God is based on a family relationship. Jesus spoke of a new birth, which meant a Spiritual birth that happened after the natural birth. The New Testament writers wrote of Brethren and Sisters united within the family's framework. They used the picture of a well-functioning family, where each member is concerned about the well-being of the other members of the family. This should not be a dysfunctional family, since God is viewed as the Father and Jesus as the Elder Brother.

As members of this Family, the Church, we should have the concern and care for each other that would be felt within the natural family. The same activities that occur naturally within the family should be drawing the Spiritual family together. There should be mutual activities, there should be teaching, there should be reaching out to the troubled and burdened, and there should be empathy within.

We do not have the personal choice of the natural family we are born into. We know God has His purpose in placing each of us in the family and circumstances that He does. We do have the choice, when we have reached the age of accountability, of choosing to be a part of the Family of God. He leaves that most important choice with us. Will we avail ourselves of the Plan of Salvation, He has authored through the shed blood of His Son?

Whether your natural family life is pleasant or not, choose to be a part of the Family of God.

JESUS... THE CARPENTER

Jesus,
Master Carpenter of Nazareth,
Who on the cross
Through wood and nails
Didst work man's whole salvation.
Wield well Thy tools
In this Thy workshop.
That we who came
To Thee rough hewn
May be Thy hand
Be fashioned
To a truer beauty
And a greater usefulness
For the honor of Thy name.

Ever wonder why He chose carpentry for His occupation? Well, it might bear some interest in looking into this subject. In fact, nothing happens by chance. There was a good reason He was a carpenter, and as we take this time together we'll find out more and it may have to do with us!

I suppose if it were left to us we would've chosen the environment of the sheepfold – the shepherd life, because this would've set forth very fittingly in literal form the purpose of His spiritual ministry. In fact, His own favorite figure of Himself was that of 'The Good Shepherd'; and didn't He come as David's greater son and heir? Was David not the Shepherd King? Then how fitting that God's Son should go from the sheepfold to the throne. But, He wasn't a shepherd. He was a carpenter.

Mark 6 depicts the incredulous attitude of the scribes and pharisees and important people – the grownups – who, when Jesus came to speak and teach in the temple they looked at Him and at each other and shook their heads. "What does He know that we don't already know? Isn't He the carpenter's son?"

We're going to be considering this further as we move ahead because actually this subject, Jesus... The Carpenter, relates quite closely to you and me right now in this hi-tech modern 20th century of ours.

Why didn't He choose law? He certainly could expound it better than anyone else. What about a doctor? He is known as the 'Great Physician'. But He didn't choose this profession either; or

what about fishing? He was known as the 'Fisher of Men'. But He chose not to select this also.

BECAUSE: the carpenter shop is the **ONLY** figure that really gathers into it **ALL** of these. It blends them into one picture of who our Lord truly was... The Master Builder.

In the building of a house the carpenter may send to Georgia for pine, California for redwood, quarries for stone; and today, the Lord, the Master Builder, is constructing the Church which is His body. And He does the same thing when He goes to the mountaintops and down into the valleys, the ravines of human sin and iniquity to find the lost sheep and bring them Home. He's doing this in order that He might build it into His temple. He fishes through the deep pools, the murky waters of selfishness and sin to love and enfold this Being into the loving arms of His net of Divine Grace. He does this so that He might build it into His temple. When He stands at the side of a soul dead in trespasses and sin and brings it back from the realms of spiritual death, He does this to build it into His temple.

Jesus Christ built this universe. This is a house we don't even know the dimensions of. And before ever these hands worked in the carpenter shop of Joseph, they worked in the carpenter shop of the Eternal Father with the Father's blueprint before Him. One great preacher said, "He stood one day on the platform of eternity and flung a world into existence. He decked the heavens with star dust, shot light into the sun, hung the moon in the heavens at night to be reflector of the glorious light of the sun. He set a compass on the seas and created beasts, birds, fish and man, and the Bible from Genesis to Revelation is the Word of the Eternal God."

Jesus Christ, right now, is building Christians. In fact, in I Cor. 3 we read once again that Christ Himself becomes the foundation and upon this foundation is built a Christian super structure. Character, God is building into the life of every believer in Him. And He knows what He is doing. He doesn't cheat. He doesn't short-cut to save costs. What a beautiful picture of Jesus... the Carpenter, taking a piece of wood, sanding it down, planing off the rough edges, molding it, shaping it, preparing it. All of these pieces.

One of the most beautiful paintings I can recall seeing as a child was of Jesus as a boy in His father's carpenter shop. He was imaged at maybe five years of age. He was holding two little pieces of wood with a nail stuck into both of them in the shape of a cross, and there he sat gazing at this little structure of a cross. Maybe even then He sensed that He would become the Master Builder.

God built this universe. Jesus, the Saviour, builds people. He builds hope, and fiber, and character. He takes this piece that

could be scrap and touches it with His expertise – His spirit. These pieces are going to someday become the most beautiful objects in all the universe touched by His power. The scrap – what could He do with you and me if yielded to His touch?

Building a future. The late Robert Katchum gave a lovely discourse on this years ago as he looked at the future. The place that God's divine carpenter has gone to prepare was now in a vision before the Beloved Disciple, John, who wrote: "In that place God would wipe away all tears." Tears... how familiar to the human family, and perhaps to you, personally. Tears have burned their way across the face of the poor, old, human race since Adam turned the face of the race away from the face of God. No more pain. No more death. Other words familiar to the human family. So, as we consider the work of our hands and how meaningless it is: Jesus said, "Come to me." And now we say to Him, "Come, Thou Carpenter Divine, tear this miserable structure right down to the ground. Clear away the foundation; build upon Thyself such a Christian super structure in my life as will cause others to say, 'I want what He has.'"

Trust your life to the Master Carpenter. If He could build the universe, build mankind, build the world; just think of what He could do with you as yielded material in His hands!

"O Lord Jesus, thank you for building. Thank you for choosing to be the Master Carpenter. We yield to you. We lay our tools down. We pray you'll touch us with your expertise, your spirit, your life, to make us what You want us to be."

- Amen -

To sum up our topic, I feel this Hymn is very moving.

BROKEN PIECES

Have you failed in life's battle to accomplish your plans?
Is your heart heavy laden? Do you fear the Lord's command?
Do you feel that no one loves you and there's no use to try?
Just bring your cares to Jesus, your soul He'll satisfy.

You may feel that there's no hope, broken hearts just cannot mend;
Though you're torn in many pieces, Christ can make you whole
again.

Storms of doubt blow all directions, but don't you be afraid;
God can make all corrections, He made a body out of clay.

CHORUS:

Pick up the broken pieces and bring them to the Lord,
Pick up the broken pieces, trust in His holy Word;

He will put them back together and make your life complete
Just place the broken pieces at the Saviour's feet!

- Ruby Kitchen

Considering myself, with you, raw material yielded into the
Master Builder's hands – what a great prospect!

Compiled by a Sister

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"God in an Identity Crisis"

Thirty years ago, would we have ever imagined that people would have a hard time identifying God? God was generally recognized as the Sovereign Creator of the universe and that life revolved around the Church. But today, America is rapidly moving toward a sexless generation... and I am speaking about the gender in this case. We have a post-person instead of a postman, a Congress-person instead of a Congressman, we have a female pastorate in many churches across the land. We have a salesperson instead of a salesman. Even God has come under attack.

Today people are offended by scriptures like John 20:21 that talks about "my Father hath sent me..." They don't relate to John 5:26 that says "... the Father hath life in Himself..." Or the model prayer by Jesus which starts, "Our Father..." seems to be obsolete.

Believe it or not, the reading of scriptures like these make many people very angry today. They are actually called "sexist" passages. They shout "Discrimination!" Some of those who demand equal rights for women actually say that God is a "She."

Not long ago, Oprah Winfrey was being interviewed by Mike Wallace of "60 Minutes." It was said that she kept referring to God over and over again. Finally, Mr. Wallace asked her why she put so much emphasis on God and she replied, "Because I love "her" with all my heart." Some would take this kind of statement lightly, but it is a grave issue if it is considered seriously. Some people see it as a social issue and not a spiritual issue at all.

There are several arguments for God being our FATHER who art in Heaven and not our mother.

First is the LINGUISTIC ARGUMENT. Every time the Scripture refers to God, it is in the masculine gender, whether it is in Hebrew, Aramaic or Greek.

Secondly, JESUS' REFERENCES TO GOD ARE ALWAYS MASCULINE. He referred to the Father over two hundred times during His earthly ministry. In fact, it seems rather strange that the same people that say God could be female have no problem

believing that Jesus could have been homosexual. Not only is this whole idea a sexist view, but it is a perverted view.

Then there is the **PSYCHOLOGICAL VIEW**. Many psychologists believe that children develop their views of God through the father image in the home. Frequently, if a person has a hard time trusting God, you find that they have had a hard time believing in their earthly fathers, also. Secular people, when they think of a voice speaking to Moses or Noah, relate more to the voice of a movie actor like Charlton Heston. They do not relate to a female voice. But when it comes to reality instead of play acting, things seem to change.

A fourth argument is the **HISTORICAL** one. You need to understand that turning God into a woman is not a new trick for Satan. All that you have to do is study some of the false gods to find that many wanted to serve female deities. What are some examples of these? Asherah, the chief goddess of Tyre might be an example. She was known as the "Lady of the Sea." Then there was Ashtoreth, the Canaanite goddess of Baal's lovers. Another example is Diana. This goddess was the one believed to be the nursing mother of the other gods. Isis follows these examples.

Finally, there is the **SATANIC ARGUMENT**. While all of this debate is going on, one should not overlook its author, Satan. People do not seem to realize that he is pictured in occultic art as a creature having a goat's head, a woman's upper anatomy, an animal's legs and finally cloven hooves. Sadly, this is the god many people worship and this is true of those in the identity crisis of our age. The god of this age is not the Father of Jesus Christ, nor is he our Heavenly Father. He is the prince and power of the air. There is no identity crisis in the God of Heaven. It is just another American problem in not being able to identify Him. May GOD help our nation.

What a responsibility we have to communicate the truth of God's Word. It is simple, straight forward, **TRUE**. Be bold and unashamed in proclaiming the story of our God... Our **FATHER**, which art in Heaven.

Brother Len Wertz

ACTIVITIES

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ. I write this article out of a loving concern for our Spiritual welfare, as well as an encouragement that each reader be more concerned about the types of activities in which our youth and children could be lured into. Let us not forget to "Try the Spirits" (I John 4:1-7) in all areas of our lives.

Do we as parents show the interest in our children's activities that we should? No matter the age of children, they need encouragement and parental guidance and involvement (to a degree) in their

interests. Parental silence only shows children a lack of concern, whereas parental involvement could keep them from hurtful temptations.

Ecclesiastes 12:1 says, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth,..." This is especially important for Christians since we are building for eternity, because decisions we make in our teens will help to shape the rest of our lives. If we yield to youthful lusts and pleasures, our minds will be affected making our adulthood much harder to live for Christ. This world and the pleasures thereof will vanish away, so why build on the harmful, temporal things in this life?

Young people before you do something questionable, please STOP! and THINK! What would Jesus do? If in doubt search it out. If you're not sure, consider it a lure. It is very important to think first before acting because once something is done you will never be able to change it. If I would have heeded this type of advice when I was younger, I would have alot fewer scars to live with now. Parents mean well when giving advice, yet sometimes it may not seem that way, however keep the doors of communication open between you and them. Your reward will be great for doing this. After all you're only young once, so make it worthwhile by living for CHRIST!

Speaking from my own past experience, I'm forced to admit that quite often I made bad decisions. I argued that, "After all you're only young once so live it up." Right! WRONG!!! Many times I went against my parent's advice, I couldn't see the danger of rollerskating, bowling, or attending "Christian movies" and so forth! I used to think "What could it hurt? Now, much to my regret I'm still finding out that it does hurt, because I still live with those scars that came as the result of "Just a little pleasure." Many worldly pleasures today bear the "Christian" title, but please BE CAREFUL!! For there are wolves in sheeps clothing.

Following are some safeguards to consider before doing something questionable. Will it benefit Christ's kingdom? Will I be modestly dressed so that I won't lure anybody into lust? Could the sisters participate while wearing their head veiling? Would Christ count you a good steward of His finances which He has entrusted to you? What good will be accomplished? Will it help to weaken or strengthen those who are already weak in the faith? If music is involved, does it feed the flesh or the Spirit?

Remember your body is God's Temple, so please don't grieve the Spirit by feeding to your body sinful lust and pleasures! Have you recently counted the costs of discipleship?

In Loving Concern
Brother Harold B. Zimmerman
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Marietta, PA 17547

ELEMENTS OF DEFEAT

Numbers 13:27-28, "And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there."

God gave the children of Israel the land of Canaan. It was a land that flowed with milk and honey. It contained fruit so great that one cluster of grapes had to be carried upon a staff between two men. God has given to all true born again believers the Church of the Living God. He has given us the milk of His Holy Word to give us daily strength. In the book of Revelation when John took the little book out of the angel's hand (which we believe was the Bible) and ate it he stated, "and it was in my mouth sweet as honey." (It was also bitter in his stomach, but that is another subject.) In the book of Galatians we read of the fruit of the Spirit that God gives to all Christians. These two gifts from God allows us to enter into our land of Canaan, Christian victory over sin and defeat.

However, like the children of Israel, we more often experience defeat in place of victory because we dwell on and allow the negatives to rob us of our spiritual blessings. The majority of the spies who searched out the land of Canaan declared that it was impossible for the children of Israel to occupy the land promised by God. They gave three specific reasons why, in their mind, it was impossible. Each of the reasons are symbolic of why the Church, as a whole, is suffering defeat.

"The people be strong that dwell in the land." How many times have you heard the thought that we cannot demand Bible obedience because the majority of the members will not follow it anyway? Or the statement may be something like this, "The majority of Bible believing Christians no longer practice those things." We have all heard the adage "there is strength in numbers." God has promised His blessing upon those who are faithful. Yet we become discouraged because we fail to see results. We wonder why we see so few souls saved. Why our churches are growing fewer in number in place of growing. We seem to fail to realize that after the time of the Book of Acts the first Century church suffered many of the same problems we face and that growth was not nearly as great. Why do we find the instructions within the New Testament upon which our Dunkard Brethren church was founded? Because those living at that time were refusing to recognize the authority of the Apostles. Did the early church leaders become discouraged and compromise the faith? No, they claimed the victory given unto them by Jesus Christ and continued on.

"The cities are walled, and very great." While we have torn down the fences of truth, we have built walls of intolerance. With the obvious fact that many of our former Brethren practices are no longer practiced, we wonder why we can find so much to battle over. We will never win others to the true faith if we cannot agree among ourselves. The walls of hostility are raised so high and very great that the rays of Christian fellowship and love cannot possibly filter through. The problem of internal strife has been a part of the earthly church ever since its conception and has probably been Satan's greatest source of defeat within the Church. Not one of the thousands of different denominations and gatherings have escaped this problem at one time or another in their history. This is no excuse for us to ignore the problem.

"Moreover we saw the children of Anak there." The children of Anak were giants. The giant of egotistical self is another source of defeat. While we respect those who believe and teach sinless perfection in this life, one of the problems we see with this theory is the possibility of becoming so sure of our standing with God that we will fail to admit our failures. The Apostle Paul warned in I Corinthians 10:12 "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." We see unconditional eternal security as another teaching that builds pride in self and refuses to acknowledge the possibility of losing that which was given as a free gift from God. God will not take back that which he has given but we can "throw it back in his face!" It is the giant of self that causes us to look down on others who do not practice everything exactly as we do. We each have our personal convictions that are not to be found in Holy Scripture. We, personally, have given up the drinking of coffee. The acid in this drink is worse for you than the caffeine, according to one medical source we read. But we are not offended when coffee is a part of our Brethren gatherings.

These elements of defeat will sour the milk of God's precious word and will take the sweetness of honey from the offer of salvation. The fruit of the Spirit will shrivel up and rot. The strength of the Church will be turned into weakness. Our joy will be turned into sadness. The Shekinah glory will have departed from the Church.

But let us not dwell only on defeat but look to victory. Jesus Christ defeated Satan on the cross of Calvary. The Holy Spirit has been given that we may enjoy victory over sin and the grave. As we read in I Corinthians 15:57. "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

SIXTY YEARS AGO

January 15, 1933

LOVE

D. W. Hostetler

What is love? It is a strong feeling of affection, centered or placed in a special thing and manifests a strong attachment to the thing that is loved. It also embraces the idea of a strong devotion to the one loved.

Love is the basis of union; without love union is entirely out of the question.

Love is the basis of agreement. "How can two walk together except that they be agreed?" the Savior asked, and it is a question we may well consider.

Love is the state of feeling kindly toward others and of desiring the welfare of all... as in love and charity for all men.

Love embraces the thought of fondness, tenderness, friendship, liking, and affection. It might be well for us to have a bigger vision of all these virtues.

What about the divine love of God? It is said in I John 4 that God is love and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God and God dwelleth in him.

Love is one of God's attributes and we must understand this attribute to be unlimited.

Jesus Christ is the expression of God's love to us, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son."

In this gift is discovered, first, God's kindness. In Ephesians 2 we find that in this gift He "might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

God's kindness through Christ is good will, a disposition which delights in contributing to the happiness toward us. All this is exercised cheerfully, in supplying our needs.

In this gift is found an expression of God's mercy, which is the act of God extending His favors to mankind, that the sinner might be saved by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost.

In this gift of God in Christ Jesus is found the long suffering of God. In (I Timothy 1) we find that Christ was manifest "that He might shew forth the long suffering of God as a pattern to them that should believe," thus exercising patience.

We find also in this gift in Christ the compassion of God. Jesus one time was moved with compassion toward the multitude, for

they were scattered as sheep having no shepherd. It was sympathy toward those who had been affected by and through sin.

In this gift in Christ we find an expression of God's pity, moved by the distress of man through sin. As David one time said, "Like as a father pitieth his children so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him." So we see that the attribute of love as God possesses is wonderful, unlimited; and God does not only possess this attribute, but God is love, and he that has love has God.

Now is man capable of exercising in the love of God? "We love Him because He first loved us."

Man is a triune being: the soul, spirit, and body. And man is four-fold in his capacity. In Luke 10:27 we have a text direct to the point. When the young lawyer asked what he should do to be saved, Jesus asked him, "How readest thou, what is written in the law?" and the lawyer said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself." This text teaches that our supreme affection must be fixed on God.

What do the scriptures mean when they speak of the heart in Matthew 6, in that sermon on the mount? Jesus said, "Lay not up treasures upon earth where moth and rust corrupt and where thieves break through and steal." He tells us further that we should lay up treasures in heaven, where "moth nor rust do not corrupt, neither do thieves break through and steal, for where your treasure is there will your heart be also."

Paul would say, "Set your affection on things above not on things on the earth," so when the scripture speaks of the heart it has reference to our affection; therefore we should love God with all our affection.

Let us analyze this love:

1. "All thy soul." The soul is an infinite substantial entity, and is as enduring as God; therefore it is capable of loving God supremely, so all the powers of the soul are brought into operation toward God.

2. "All thy mind." In order to be able to love God with the mind, Paul would say, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ." In order to have this mind, we must get rid of the carnal mind. The mind is made up of different units of faculties. There is the social, the selfish, the aspiring, the moral, the mechanical, the perception, and reason. There is the religious. So if the social faculty comes to the surface and all the other units are supporting the social, the individual has developed a social character. He meets everyone, shakes hands freely, and he is what folks call now days a good mixer. The same thing is true of selfish phase; in this phase, self is brought to the surface and becomes the center of life, and all other faculties are brought to support and sustain this selfish trait.

Suppose the religious phase is brought to the surface and becomes the center of life and all the other attributes become sanctified and support and sustain the religious. It follows that the entire mind is fixed on one thing and that is to love God "with all thy mind."

3. "All thy strength." What else is this but the activities of life? It is an index of the love of God in the heart. It is an external manifestation that the love of God is in the heart. For this reason John says, "And this is love, that we walk after His commandments. This is the commandment, that, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it." Again Jesus says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments. He that loveth not knoweth not God, for God is love." So in all these capacities, we are to love God, and if we thus love God, I am thinking we will not have any time to love the world, and the things of the world.

"And by this shall all men know we are his disciples if we have love for one another." John raised the question of how we can love God whom we have not seen. He says that if a man would say that he loves God and hates his brother, he is a liar.

We are told to love our enemies, bless those that curse us, pray for those that persecute us and love those that accuse us falsely. These acts, when we become capable of performing them, are truly love at work.

WHICH BRICKS WOULD YOU STEAL?

Suppose you are a thief. You come upon a construction site. There is a pile of unused bricks, and there are those the bricklayers have already used to make a wall. No one is there. Here is an opportunity for you to take some bricks. Which ones will you take? Will you take some of the pile of the unused bricks? Or, will you tear the wall down and take some of those cemented together?

The answer is obvious. Anyone would take the unused pile because they are unattached. It would be very difficult even with tools to remove a brick from the center of the wall.

Perhaps you see the lesson. Some Christians are very active in the church and are very close to their Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Then there are some who seem very indifferen to Jesus Christ. They seldom associate with their Brothers and Sisters in Christ because their interests lie elsewhere.

Now, which Christian do you think Satan will try first? Again, of course, those unattached to the Church will be much easier. Those uncommitted Christians are the first at which Satan strikes.

Let us all be dedicated and bonded together in love so that we can stand steadfastly against the devil.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

OBITUARY

CHARLES ARNOLD

Bro. Charles Herbert Arnold of Kyser, West Virginia was born July 22, 1907. He departed this life at his home, October 10, 1992. He was the son of the late Edward and Elizabeth (O'Brien) Arnold. He was a retired farmer and a member of the Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church. He is survived by his wife Dorothy (Rotruch) Arnold; one daughter, Shirley Hoopengarcher; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services were conducted at the Knobly Church of the Brethren by Elder Virgil Leatherman. Burial was in the Knobly (West Virginia) Cemetery.

NEWS ITEMS

THANK YOU

A special thank you to all of you who had special prayers for me, while in the hospital and since I am home.

Also for all the visits, flowers and balloons and the many beautiful get well cards, they all made my days brighter. May God bless you all is my prayer.

In Christian Love
Sister Marguerite I. Marks

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 1993

February 7 - Giving, Praying, Forgiving, Fasting - Matthew 6:1-18.

1. What should be our motive in giving, praying and fasting?
2. What is the key to God's forgiveness?

February 14 - "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God" - Matthew 6:19-34.

1. What is "the kingdom"?
2. How shall we seek this kingdom?

February 21 - Judging, Giving, Asking, Doing - Matthew 7:1-12.

1. What elements move us to judge others?
2. What is God's formula in verse seven?

February 28 - Teaching with Authority - Matthew 7:13-29.

1. Do all "roads" lead to Heaven? verse 13 and 14.
2. What response is Christ seeking in our life? verse 21-29.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 1993

February 7 - The Daughter of Jairus - Mark 5:22-23 and 38-43.

1. Contrast the faith of Jairus with the people in verse 40.
2. What was Jesus' instructions in verse 36?

February 14 - Our Communications - Matthew 5:33-37, James 3:1-18.

1. How can we use the gift of communication for or against God's work?
2. Ponder the potential of the tongue for both good and evil.
Proverbs 18:21.

February 21 - Our Alms Giving - Deut. 15:6-8, Matt. 6:1-4, Matt. 19-21, Luke 11:37-42.

1. Why should we give alms?
2. How should alms be given?

February 28 - Our Forgiveness - Ps. 103, Matt. 6:14-15, Acts 5:31, Eph. 1:6-10, I John 1:9.

1. Why will God forgive us?
2. How can we forgive others?

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXI

FEBRUARY 1, 1993

NO. 3

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
-------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

NOW I RESOLVE

Now I resolve with all my heart,
With all my pow'rs to serve the Lord:
Nor from his precepts e'er depart,
Whose service is a rich reward.

O be his service all my joy!
Around let my example shine,
Till others love the blest employ,
And join in labors so divine.

Be this the purpose of my soul,
My solemn, my determin'd choice,
To yield to his supreme control,
And in his kind commands rejoice.

O may I never faint nor tire,
Nor wand'ring, leave his sacred ways;
Great God, accept my soul's desire,
And give me strength to live thy praise.

- Richard Steele

STEAL NO MORE

There are many forms of robbery. Some are more subtle than others, as people have devised various schemes for subverting the Eighth Commandment, which has been abused repeatedly since it was given to Moses. Perhaps none would admit to outright thievery, but would still be guilty of stealing.

A morally derelict world is used to stealing. It is almost expected in some situations. Stealing is one of the signs of a world that is not in tune with God. The Apostle Paul wrote to those who became Christian converts that God expected a change in their lifestyles. Stealing was not to be expected of the Christian, although in his past life he may have been a thief. Paul's expectation was that a Christian would steal no more but would earn his living by honest labor. Not only should he labor to provide for himself and his family, but also to be able to give to those who were in need. Instead of stealing he would be giving to others.

Stealing is usually associated with the theft of money or objects. There is daily evidence that robbery is being widely practised. Bank robberies did not end with the lawless days of the "Wild West". Carjackings are a recently growing form of robbery. Many robberies are carried out without the immediate knowledge of the money's owner. This happens when funds are embezzled from a company or a government, through manipulation of assets. Whatever the method the result is the same: someone stole what did not belong to them. Other methods of robbery are connected with business and government, none of which a Christian should be involved with.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

February 1 1993

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There are many other forms of robbery which may not seem so obvious. Cheating is a form of robbery. When a better than deserved grade is received for work that was not honestly done, it is robbery. The theft is not only from the one giving the grade – a teacher or school, but it is a theft from the person doing the cheating. He is being cheated of the learning experience that he has bypassed by turning in work not actually done. This could include claiming credit for writings done by someone else but claimed as original work. This is not limited to school work, but extends into all areas of life where work is claimed as personal effort and compensation is made on that basis. A Christian certainly cannot in good conscience claim to do work that he did not do, nor dare he copy from another to be able to pass a class with a better score than actually earned.

Stealing may not always be a physical activity. It may involve injuring another person through rumor or innuendo. Gossip is a form of robbery, for a person's reputation can be harmed by stories told amongst his friends or enemies, whether true or false. Some have been greatly harmed because of falsehoods circulated by others, either purposely or through error. To steal a man's reputation is to destroy a very vital part of him. His standing in the community may be seriously harmed and he may suffer material loss through gossip. As a Christian would not desire to steal material things from another, so he should use real care in handling another person's reputation.

Stealing from another person is a serious matter, but even more serious is stealing from God. Every theft is in a sense a robbery aimed at God, just as every sin is ultimately a sin against God. Robbing from God is not stealing His material things, although those who wantonly abuse and destroy the environment are stealing from the Earth that belongs to God as its Creator. The more serious form of robbery from God is to steal His glory and honor. This takes several forms including neglecting Him totally. When a person feels able to care for himself and make his own decisions in this life without any regard for God's will, he is stealing from God the honor that He should have in directing each person's life. Stealing may take the form of disobedience. To disobey God is to trample His majesty in the mire of a worldly mind that thinks it knows better than the God who made it. To live a life devoid of the order and decency that He ordained for man's happiness is to rob Him of the power that He wishes to have in each life. A Christian dare not be guilty of such robbery, for by definition a Christian is one who has a vital link with God and is a part of His believing and obedient family. The ultimate loser is the one who tries to steal

from God. He ends up the victim of his own lawlessness. He loses not only a future Heavenly Home but a more enjoyable earthly life, now.

Surely you would never be guilty of stealing, in any of its forms, would you?

SIXTY YEARS AGO

February 1, 1933

STEADFASTNESS

Ezra Beery

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." I Cor. 15:58. I believe, as we see the writer of this scripture going to the high priest, desiring letters to Damascus to bring Christian men and women bound to Jerusalem, a man very steadfast in his belief. At that time you remember how he fell to the earth, he heard a voice that changed his very life from that time on. As he received instructions from the Lord, he obeyed. As time went on, we find Paul in the house of Judas. We find him blind. After receiving sight at the hands of one of Christ's disciples he was filled with the Holy Ghost, and he arose and was baptized. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.

As we follow Paul from that time on, through the gospel, through trials and tribulations, we find him a very steadfast man, earnest in the things he received of the Lord. As we see him going from place to place, from church to church, we believe that Paul realized that he had a great work to perform, for we find that Paul was sent to preach the gospel of salvation.

As Paul writes to the church at Corinth, he says, "I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ." I am wondering if we as followers of Christ, do thank God for his grace sent to each and every one of His followers. Are we proving that our work here is not in vain? Paul in Hebrews 3:14 says, "For we are made partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end." As we study the scripture, when was the beginning of our confidence in Christ? Was it not when we put our trust in His word? Are we, as obedient children of God as earnest in the things that pertain to our soul's

salvation as we ought to be? Do we hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering? For He is faithful that promised. Heb. 10:36, "For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." So you see the whole matter is up to us.

Are we willing to stand for the truth of the gospel? We have the same promise that Paul had. Eph. 6:13, "Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." We believe as we look about us, in every direction, and in every phase of life, we see the fulfillment of the scripture, that Christ's followers, as a whole, must earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

NEWS ITEMS

1993 GENERAL CONFERENCE

June 5 - 9, 1993

The Lord willing, General Conference will be held at the Maranatha Conference Grounds, located near Maxwell, Nebraska, thirteen miles east of North Platte, Nebraska on Interstate 80. More information will be given later. Reservations should be sent to:

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2495 - 240th St.
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Bro. Marvin Haldeman
P.O. Box 304
Quinter, KS 67752

Brother Carl Reed
Arrangements Committee

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EDITORIAL POLICY

That it be the policy of the Bible Monitor to exclude controversial material and material opposing, questioning or reflecting on the decisions or positions of the Church as determined by the General Conference or derogatory thereto. Also all other material not of proper standard or spiritual value for a church paper.

That supervision over the matter to be published in the Bible Monitor be exercised by the Publication Board.

PRINTED MATERIAL

The following Dunkard Brethren publications are available to anyone, from the Boards listed:

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SUGGESTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

We are submitting several suggestions as a help to contributors in preparing material for the Bible Monitor. These suggestions will also make the work easier for both the editor and the writer.

1. Become familiar with the Editorial Policy and do not use subjects or statements which conflict with this plan of the Bible Monitor.

2. Place your name and address at the close of the article. We deem it more appropriate to sign as Brother or Sister.

3. Do not make sentences too long. A number of short sentences are better than a long involved sentence, which is difficult to punctuate, and in which the real meaning of the writer's thoughts may be lost.

4. It will be appreciated if you gather a particular thought or thoughts and their proving Scripture quotations, into paragraphs and set these apart from the rest of the article, by setting in the first line of each paragraph about the space of three letters.

5. Do not crowd your words or punctuation marks close together. Do not use slang or abbreviated words as "thot" for "thought", "2" for "two", "&" for "and", etc.

6. Write or type on one side of the paper only. Double spacing of lines is much preferred. Do not make the lines the full width of the sheet, leave at least a one inch margin on each side of the sheet.

7. Use direct quotations for the Scripture references, please copy wording and punctuation just as it appears in the King James Version of the Bible. Given thus: book, chapter and verse, "Jesus wept." John 11:35.

8. Frequent mistakes we find: "beleive" for "believe"; "recieve" for "receive"; "ore" for "or"; "&" for "and".

9. In submitting selected material, give the name of the author and the publication in which it appeared, if known, and add "selected by" and your name.

10. To be certain that an item is in a certain issue, your Editor should have this item at least thirty days prior to the date of that issue.

11. The Publication Board has decided that News Items should contain material of general interest to the Brotherhood. Therefore items of only local interest should not be included in News Items, such as local Sunday School officers, District Meeting delegates, minor local church property improvements and items "In Memoriam".

12. Read these, then write.

FIXED COMMUNION DATES

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 First Sat. April - Dallas Center, IA
 Last Sat. April - Grandview, MO
 Last Sun. April - Bethel, PA
 First Sat. May - Pleasant Home, CA
 First Sun. May - Waynesboro, PA
 Third Sat. May - Dayton, VA
 Third Sat. May - West Fulton, OH
 Third Sun. May - Lititz, PA
 Fourth Sun. May - Shrewsbury, PA
 Sat. before First Sun. Aug. - Broadwater Chapel, MD

Sat. before Fourth Sun. Aug. - Swallow Falls, MD
 First Sun. Oct. - Walnut Grove, MD
 Third Sat. Oct. - Dayton, VA
 Fourth Sat. Oct. - Englewood, OH
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 First Sat. Nov. - Pleasant Home, CA
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GOSSIP, BOTH VERBAL AND BY MAIL

A. Elders, other officials and all others are admonished that being busybodies in other men's matters, is contrary to the Scripture and it should not be indulged in, as it causes complaint and interference with the spiritual life and work of those concerned. This applies especially where there may be trouble in the church, both to local members and those elsewhere, talking and writing about such matters.

B. When advice is sought of an official in any church matter he (the official) should be exceedingly careful in giving advice, so as not to interfere in any way with proper care of difficulties, by officials whose business they are. Elders and all others should, in seeking advice, begin at home when at all possible and be careful to proceed regularly and in brotherly love.

C. In correspondence, care should be exercised not to make statements that may be construed as derogatory to any member. If such things are done, full responsibility must be understood as being assumed by the writer.

D. Caucusing, that is, the talking over and planning by groups, what to do or how to move in any particular matter is unprofitable, causative of distress and trouble and should not be indulged in by officials or anyone else.

E. Talking or circulating of what was done in council, either to members who were not present or to outsiders, is irregular and un-Christian and should not be indulged in.

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LOCATION OF CHURCH HOUSES

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

Located on Route 419, five miles east of Bethel, which is one mile south of Interstate 78, exit 6. The church and the school are located together.

BROADWATER CHAPEL, MD

From Cumberland, Maryland, travel west on National Freeway #48, 20 miles to Lower New Germany Road Exit. Turn left or south under the freeway three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road. Go 3.8 miles, turn left on Westernport Road. Go 3.8 miles, turn right on Savage Road. Go 3.9 miles to church on left.

From Morgantown, WV area travel east on National Freeway #48 to Lower New Germany Road Exit. Turn right, go three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road and follow above directions.

Traveling east or west on U.S. Route #50 take U.S. Rt. #220 north, take Maryland Route #135 at McCoolle (just north of Keyser, WV) seven miles to Bloomington, MD. Turn right on Savage River Road, go 12.5 miles to church on right.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

Dallas Center is located on Rt. 44, twenty-four miles northwest of Des Moines. Turn north off Rt. 44 onto County Rd. R16 at west edge of Dallas Center. The church is 3/4 mile north on the west side of the road.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

Turn west from Interstate 81 at Harrisonburg Exit #63. Go to fourth stop light, Rt. 42, turn left to Dayton, (3 miles) right on Rt. 257, two blocks.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Twelve miles north of Dayton, Rt. 440 and Rt. 48 cross at the center of Englewood. Church house is located on the right of Rt. 48, one block north of this junction.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

Located on Green Road, one block north of County #130. Take U.S. 33 or Indiana #15 to Goshen, turn west at police booth. Four blocks beyond bridge, turn right on North Indiana Ave., go one block, turn left on West Clinton St. Go one mile to Green Rd. turn right and go one block. The church is located on the east side of the road.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Church is located south of Grandview. Take the west access road of 71 Highway 1.5 miles south to 139th St., turn west, go to the second street and turn south one block.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Coming from the south on Route 501, turn right on Newport Road, which is about a mile north of Lititz. Coming from the north turn left on Newport Road. Go to second crossroads, turn right. The white church is on the right.

MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Located between Routes 15 and 11. The town is bisected by Rt. 114 into east and west and by Rt. 641 into north and south. The church is located on West Keller St., (corner of Keller and Washington) St., four blocks west of Market St., or Rt. 114. Leaving the Pennsylvania Turnpike at the Carlisle interchange, Rt. 11 will lead east to Rt. 114. Leaving the Turnpike at Gettysburg interchange, Rt. 16 will lead west to Rt. 114.

Brightbill's House - located on U.S. Route 322, 2.5 miles east of Campbelltown, Pennsylvania in Lebanon County. The meeting house is a grey limestone building.

McCLAVE, COLORADO

The Cloverleaf church is located one mile north of U.S. Highway #50, four miles west of McClave junction, or two miles east of Hasty, Colorado on U.S. #50, then one mile north.

MOUNTAINDALE, MARYLAND

Seven miles north of Frederick, in the little town of Mountaindale, Maryland, from the east go through town to west on road from Lewistown to Yellow Springs, two miles from Lewistown and three miles from Yellow Springs. If traveling U.S. 15, this road crosses 15, a half mile west of Lewistown and six miles south of Thurmont.

NEWBERG, OREGON

Highway 99W goes through Newberg in east-west direction. Those entering from the east on First Street, go to third stoplight, turn right on N. Main. Go four blocks to the church at corner of N. Main and Franklin Streets. Entering from the west, turn left at first stoplight onto N. Main and go four blocks to the corner of Main and Franklin Streets.

PINE RIDGE, MISSISSIPPI

Located near Collins, Mississippi. From Collins, go east on US 84 three quarters of a mile to Salem School Road. Turn left and go five and one fourth miles to intersection, where there is a directional sign to the Church. Turn left and proceed one mile to the next directional sign. Turn right and go one half mile to the church house.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Pleasant Home Church is located at 3960 Sharon Ave., Modesto, California. The church's telephone number is 209-524-8634.

Directions: from the south on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit to the right and stay on Briggsmore Ave. to Claus Road (approximately six miles), turn left on Claus, one fourth mile to Sharon Avenue, left on Sharon. The church is on the left. Coming from the north on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit, turn left and stay on Briggsmore and follow above directions.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

Located in Williams County, four miles west of West Unity, forty rods north of Rt. 20 Alternate. Two miles east of junction of Ohio Rt. 15 and U.S. Route 20 Alternate.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

Route 18 passes east and west through Converse. In Converse, turn south at stoplight and go three miles. Turn right on blacktop road and go five miles to Plevna. Or go west of Converse on Rt. 18 for five miles, turn left and go three miles south. The church is on west side of street near the square of Plevna.

QUINTER, KANSAS

Located at the corner of Eighth Street and Main Street.

RIDGE, WEST VIRGINIA

Coming from the west to Ridgeville on U.S. 50, turn right on Knobley Road. Follow this road to the Antioch Church of God, where you will turn left onto an unpaved road. Follow this road to where the road forks, keep the right hand road to the Ridge Church House.

Coming from the east on U.S. 50, turn left at Ridgeville and follow the same directions. Coming through Cumberland, Maryland follow Route 220 south through Keyser, West Virginia to U.S. 50. Turn east on U.S. 50 and go to Ridgeville and follow the above directions.

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

Fourteen miles south of York on Rt. 111, at the north end of the town of Shrewsbury.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

Traveling U.S. Rt. 50, turn north at red house, half way between Clarksburg and Winchester, follow Rt. 219 to Oakland, there turn left on County Road 20. The church is on Road 20 about nine miles north of Oakland. Traveling U.S. Rt. 40, turn south unto Rt. 219, at Keyser Ridge, follow Rt. 219 about four miles past Deep Great Lake, turn right on County Road 20 at a store. The church is 1.5 miles.

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

About midway between Frederick, MD and Hanover, PA. One fourth mile east on Rt. 194, at an intersection three miles north of Taneytown, MD.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

Church is located in west side of town, on corner of Ridge and Third Streets. Turn south of Route 16 on Fairview Ave., go two blocks and turn left on Third Street, church house is one block.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

Near Wauseon, OH, located on U.S. Rt. 20 Alternate, 3.5 miles west of the junction of Ohio Rt. 108 and U.S. 20 Alternate.

WINTERHAVEN, CALIFORNIA

Located in Cherry Valley. Go north of Beaumont on Beaumont Ave., turn right on Brookside (marked with Highland Springs sign) go to Jonathan, turn left, go to Lincoln, turn right and go to church which is on left side of road.

MISSIONS**CLEARVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA -**

Ward's Church is located in South-Central Pennsylvania about halfway between Everett on Rt. 30 and Piney Grove on Rt. 40, about six miles south of Clearville. From Everett take Rt. 26 to Clearville. At Clearville go straight south, leaving Rt. 26, which turns right. Go 1.5 miles, turn right at the fork. Ward's Church is five miles on left side of road. Services are held second, fourth and fifth Sundays, at 10:00 A.M.

HART, MICHIGAN - From Muskegon go north on Rt. 31 to Hart Exit. Go left from freeway about 1.5 miles to tee in road, turn right. Go approximately one half mile to church on left side of road.

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION, NEW

MEXICO - Located 23 miles southwest of Cuba, New Mexico. In Cuba, turn on State Highway 197. Follow Rt. 197 for 19 miles to a paved road going to the left. A Mission sign marks this junction. Present personnel includes: David and Mildred Skiles; Paul and Sarah Skiles; Mary Alice Skiles; Renita Trujillo; Steve and Susan Beachler; Maurice and Marjorie Miller; and Chris Beachler. Visitors would be wise to notify the Mission in advance. Address: HCR 79, Box 8, Cuba, NM 87013; telephone: 505-731-2292. Please contact for further information.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXI

FEBRUARY 15, 1993

NO. 4

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

OUR CHOICE

Folks that have a mind to think
Will find it's never full.
Those who have two eyes to see
Will never find life dull.

The wisdom of this old world,
With God is foolishness.
Those who work to serve Him here,
He tells them, He will bless.

Those who study and love His Word
Find favor in His sight.
And those who walk the narrow way
Shall never fear the night.

The Lord made us to serve Him
But never will demand it!
Those who do His will shall live
And be led by His Spirit.

- Irene Stout

SIMPLICITY

We all have wished for more simplicity in our lives. It seems modern living has become too complicated. We not only cannot fix our own automobile, we can't even get into the various engine components without specialized tools and equipment. Getting medical treatment is no longer accomplished by simply calling the Doctor to come to your house or going to his office and waiting your turn. Now there are various physicians, who need to be consulted about our various medical problems. Often an appointment cannot be made for days or weeks ahead. Insurance regulations make seeking health care frustrating. Dealing with any governmental agency brings red tape to the fore and further complicates our lives. Not only are there forms on top of forms, but many other complications, that make even paying taxes more burdensome than it should be. It is little wonder that we often pine for the mostly imaginary "good old days".

There is a difference between "simplicity" and being "simple minded". The Bible speaks of the "simple minded" as those who are easily fooled and who go on their way to destruction, ignoring the advice and instruction that comes from Above. "Simplicity" speaks of a lack of complication. Unnecessary embellishments are absent from the simple life. It is easy to get away from the simple truths of the Bible, instead relying on human understanding, we add to God's Word. We try to tell God what He actually meant when He delivered His Word to us. We don't want to be thought "simple minded", so we refuse to accept what is simple and straight forward.

Many modern, American institutions have become bureaucracies, lacking the common, human touch. Unfortunately, many

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organized Churches have become bureaucracies, lacking old-fashioned simplicity. Often there is a great remoteness between the headquarters and the people in the pews. The simplicity that Christ instituted within His Church is often displaced by a highly-organized, administrative structure. The Church with these embellishments is no longer the place of simple fellowship and Bible study. In the modern Church there is a desire for various programs. It has become fashionable in the modern, complicated Church for simple preaching of the Gospel to be replaced by other means of communication. Too often Church politics replaces God's will.

Too often in analyzing problems that affect the Church and her members, there is a tendency to reach conclusions that are far too complicated. There is often a rejection of the simple Word of God, which is replaced with great psychiatric discourses. Often those expounding on these subjects have not had sufficient training. They try to reason out a person's response to certain situations, by analyzing their whole life's experiences and what they think the real problems are. Too often sin is ignored as the true cause. When life's situations are analyzed according to the scriptures, it could be found that separation from God and from His revealed will are the real reasons for man's problems.

Deficits are caused by spending more than is available. Health problems are caused by ignoring God's warnings against the use of certain harmful substances. Families are disrupted because the marriage relationship is destroyed by adultery. Too often, fun is the goal of modern society. All want to have a good time. By following this menu for life, many lives have been ruined. These lives need to know the simple truths of God's Word, which then need to be implemented.

This may sound too simple to ears that are used to the complicated, secular reasoning that passes for instruction in these educated, technical times. But it is far better to be thought to be too simple than to be too smart to listen to what God has been encouraging His people to do all these centuries. His Word remains constant. The advice and the programs devised by men are ever changing. They emphasize one element for awhile, then some other element comes along to push it aside.

Accept the simple Word of God as the direction for your heart, soul, body and mind. Do not be a "simple minded" receptacle for the teachings of a world that is in rebellion against God. Choose the simple way that God has designed for your future well-being.

A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

RD #2 Box 561
Round Barn Road
Newmanstown, PA 17073
January 25, 1993

President Bill Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Clinton:

We greet you in the Blessed Name of Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, Lord, and King of all those who trust in Him. It is our hope that you will be able to read this letter personally, which is being written by one who trusts Jesus Christ for his salvation.

We did not vote for you, nor for either of your opponents, in the recent election, because, as the Bible states, "here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come." (Hebrews 13:14) We are but strangers and pilgrims on the earth and God has prepared for us a city. (Hebrews 11) That is why we do not get involved in civil government, or demonstrate publicly for or against candidates. We serve our Risen Lord and King, Christ Jesus.

It is permissible, however, according to the scriptures for us to give warning to those in authority over us. The Bible tells us that government and leaders are ordained of God. God has put you in the White House. Please do not forget that God raises up whom He will and puts down whom He will. Please look to God, His wisdom is greater than ours. Trust in Him. The world needs the wisdom of God. Rest assured that Christians, the world over, will be praying for you that you may see His greatness and turn to Him.

The Bible also says that God knew us while we were being fashioned in the womb. Psalm 139:13-16 says, "For thou hast possessed my reins: Thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them." Christians believe that abortion is murder, not just because it is "morally wrong," but because the Bible is so clear regarding our origins. We were made in the image of God with an immortal soul, destined to make a permanent home of either heaven or hell. Our destination depends on whether or not we believe in and trust in that God.

Those who believe in abortion on demand place less value on human life. Not only are they belittling the origins of man, but, whether they admit it or not, they do not believe in a life after this present one. Those that believe in the freedom to do as they please will do it at the expense of others, especially those, like the unborn, who cannot defend themselves. They will likewise sanction the quiet deaths of those at the end of their lives in "doctor-assisted" suicide. The most graphic instance of suicide is found in the scriptures when the betrayer of Jesus, in total remorse, hangs himself.

Most instances of abortion stem from the sad fact that today folks think that they can have sex with anyone they choose at anytime. If sex were kept within the framework of marriage, an institution which God hath ordained and sanctified, there would be no need for abortion. Not only that, but deadly diseases like AIDS would not exist. Allowing abortion on demand is merely dealing with the symptoms of sin, and not the sin itself. It is a poor doctor that treats the symptoms and does not deal with the source of them.

You, Mister President, have been put in authority over the richest, most powerful country on earth. You told us that your desire was to serve the American people. How well you do that will determine whether or not you are re-elected. History will judge your service to this nation, and so will God. Much of what you do and say will influence others. Will it be for the good, or for the bad?

Yours for the perpetuation of the Gospel,

Lynn Hayes Miller

(This is a copy of an actual letter sent to President Clinton on the above date.)

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Sorceries"

In Revelation 9 we read of men not repenting of their SORCERIES... among a list of other sins that were bringing about the judgment of God on earth. God's word in this portion of Scripture is specifically speaking of the time in history known as the tribulation period. It teaches us about a group of people living during that awful segment of time and tells us that they "repented not." For a moment, let us consider what the people had gone through physically and what they had experienced. They had lived through the burden of being under the Antichrist, war, famine, destruction of a third of the population of the earth, heavenly and

earthly disturbances such as hail and fire from heaven mingled with blood, the blotting out of the sun, moon and stars, and much, much more... even seeking out death because of the torture and yet unable to accomplish it. After all of this torment they REPENTED NOT. Because of the hardness of their hearts and their love for the sins described in Chapter 9, they continued to refuse to repent and turn to God.

There are many of these same practices prevalent in our society today and we can see the same condition of the heart in our world in 1993.

In verse 21, we see the word, "SORCERIES" which comes from the Greek root word, "PHARMAKEIS". It is from this same word that we get our word, "pharmacy". It refers to taking drugs. The word is used again in Revelation 21:8 when it talks about SORCERERS having their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone and also in Revelation 22:15 which talks about SORCERERS being eliminated from heaven. In each of these cases the word, "sorcerers" is speaking about the relationship between drugs and the occult.

Our world today is being inundated with the practice of taking drugs. It is an epidemic to the point where our President has declared a "War on Drugs." Both young and old are being affected daily by the use of cocaine, crack, heroin, marijuana and many other narcotics. Statistics show us that some ninety per cent of all teenagers in the United States will have used drugs of some kind by the time they reach the twelfth grade. About eleven per cent of high school seniors report regular usage of cocaine. We can go on and on with statistics of how young people are killing themselves daily through drug abuse.

How did this awful epidemic begin to grow in our culture so as to be of such great proportions today? To find the answer to this question, we need to look at what is the one thing that universally affects teenagers and young adults today. This factor is the medium of music. What they listen to for hour upon hour each day for a period of many years DOES influence their life-style. They know the lyrics of the songs well enough to recite and sing them and it has left an indelible impression on their minds and lives. I believe we have to go back to the 1960's and '70's to find the basic root to our drug problem today. Groups like the Beatles had a great detrimental affect on our society from their inception. Their introduction of drug use mixed with music was too much to ignore. John Lennon of that group admitted he had been on drugs since he was fifteen years of age and the majority of the Beatles songs were written and recorded while they were under the influence of a variety of drugs.

After the Beatles' rise to fame and their advocacy of drug use, many other groups followed with drug related songs. These

included the Rolling Stones, Jefferson Airplane (now Jefferson Starship), David Bowie, Linda Ronstadt, Simon and Garfunkel, and so forth. You may be shocked to know that the Simon and Garfunkel song "Bridge over Troubled Waters" is sometimes sung in churches and it is about the relationship between a junkie and a pusher and it mentions a "silver girl" which is a hypodermic needle.

We cannot blame the drug problem of youth today entirely on rock music but is certainly a dramatic contributing factor. There is a direct connection between the phonograph needle and the hypodermic needle! Certainly the breakdown of the family and lack of respect for authority are also to blame.

As we look back into our Scripture, we see that it will be no different in the last days. The love of drugs and the influences of the occult will be so strong and powerful that nothing short of the saving and delivering power of the Lord Jesus Christ will be able to break this hold. I pray that you will understand that drugs lead to spiritual death. If you have been in any way involved with this problem, turn to Jesus Christ and allow Him to work in your heart and life to bring you back to spiritual wholeness once again. Don't be controlled by the spirit of this age...drugs and the occult... but be led by the Spirit of God.

Brother Len Wertz

PASS THE SALT !

Part 1

Picture this situation. You're out to breakfast with friends and the waitress brings the eggs. You take a bite and frown as your eyes drift across the table looking for a small container with holes in the top. Maybe the container is round or square or shaped like a little duck – but whatever, it's out of reach. Being an avid Bible scholar, Job's desperate pleas immediately pops into your mind. "Can that which is unsavory be eaten without salt? or is there ANY taste in the white of an egg?" (Job 6:6) As the conversation intensifies, you realize your eggs are not only tasteless, they're getting cold. So you catch someone's eye and interrupt saying, "Excuse me. Uh, excuse me please... but would you please pass the salt?"

We've all experienced the blessings of salt – on our eggs, our french fries, and in our chicken soup. Salt has come to the rescue all our lives – saving the bland, the tasteless or the just plain inedible. We usually think of it as seasoning, but that's not all it does.

SALT OF THE EARTH

In Matthew 5:13 Jesus told His disciples, "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be

salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." In these few words, Jesus tells us something about the function of His Church and the responsibility of those individuals who make it up.

As disciples we're the salt of the earth. We won't BECOME salt, but according to Jesus it's the Christian state of being. When we become Christians, God had more in mind for us than just getting us saved. He wanted us to influence others – the whole earth – towards Him. He didn't say we were the salt of our church or Sunday School. We're the salt of the EARTH – nobody salts their salt! To understand what it means to be salt, we need to know what salt is like, where it comes from, and what it does.

WHY SALT

Why did God call us salt? When He created smells He gave us about 14,000 different ones. But when He created tastes, He only made four: bitter, sweet, sour and salty. All flavors come from these four tastes. God didn't tell us we were the bitter, the sweet, or the sour of the earth. He called us salt on purpose. It wasn't an arbitrary choice. That means we need to pay close attention to the attributes and characteristics of salt.

Unlike diamonds or precious metals which are buried underground, salt is a very common substance. Tons of salt can be found in places like the Dead Sea and the Great Salt Lake. We get salt when salt water evaporates. In some places of the world, bulldozers heap up mountains of salt – more than anyone could use at once. Only five out of every one hundred pounds of refined salt ends up on the dinner table. The rest is used for such diverse purposes as packing meat, building roads, feeding livestock, and in the manufacture of glass, soap, ash, and washing compounds. Most unique was the use among ancient Chinese. They believed an honorable way to commit suicide was to eat a pound of salt!

When we say, "Pass the salt," we care more about what it does, than what it's made of. We just know our eggs need help. But if we were to be exact we'd say, "Pass the sodium chloride please!"

SODIUM CHLORIDE

Common table salt is made up of two chemical elements that are very reactive and dangerous – sodium and chloride. Sodium is a silvery white metal with the consistency of hard cheese. If you drop a small chunk in water, the reaction creates hydrogen gas which is highly explosive. Chlorine is a greenish gas with a choking smell. Enter a room full and you'll be dead in seconds. So in salt, two dangerous opposites unite to make something good. When they combine, they even get a new name. God shows His love by linking us to Him. Talk about opposites! By the way, salt crystals are

shaped in perfect cubes. I won't speculate about why God named us after little squares – but He's got an interesting sense of humor!

Compiled

THE MIRACLES OF CHRIST AS RECORDED IN GOD'S WORD

4. The Draught of Fishes

Luke 5:4-9

Luke 5:4-9, "Now when he (Jesus) had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great MULTITUDE OF FISHES: AND THEIR NET BRAKE. and they beckoned unto their PARTNERS, WHICH WERE IN THE OTHER SHIP, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken."

The three verses preceding these verses gives the setting for this miracle. Such a large crowd pressed upon Jesus to hear the Word of God, He was by Lake Gennesaret (Sea of Galilee). He saw two ships standing by the lake. The fishermen had left the boats and were cleaning their nets.

Jesus entered into Simon Peter's boat. He asked Peter to move the boat to deeper water. When it was moved, He sat down and taught the people from out of the ship. Then the fourth verse begins.

NOTE THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM THESE FEW VERSES

1. Can your mind's eye envision huge crowds seated on the shore, row upon row seated on the shore's hillside?
2. Why so many people? They wanted to hear Jesus preach. As Jesus surveyed the situation, he felt the need of not being pressed by the people. He borrowed Peter's boat and asked him to move it to deeper water. Peter told Jesus that they had toiled all night and had caught nothing, but Peter said, "NEVERTHELESS, I will." and he did. Jesus knew where the fish were located. He notices, too when a hair falls from our head. By obeying Him, their two boats were so full of fish they began to sink.

We are the gainers, when we do what Jesus tells us to do. Peter showed his faith when he let down the nets. The Psalmist David said that his cup runneth over. So does ours, but we often forget from whence it came and we do not thank Him enough.

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44718

SIXTY YEARS AGO

February 15, 1933

DOING OUR PART

(Phil. 3:13-14)

J. D. Brown

"... but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

It is so natural for us to neglect doing our part.

Jesus Christ in the great plan of salvation has given us a great work to do, working out our own salvation with fear and trembling. But man has so many excuses to offer just as they did back in Christ's time.

In Luke 9:59 Christ asked a certain individual to follow Him. He began to look back and make excuses, saying, "Lord suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God."

This man like many others was looking in the wrong direction, looking to the satisfying of the natural man. But Christ had a work for this man to do regardless of conditions at home.

The next man said let me first go and bid them farewell which are at home, at my house. Jesus said unto him, no man having put his hand to the plow, and looking back is fit for the kingdom of God.

Another said I have bought a piece of ground, he had to look after that. Another five yoke of oxen, he wanted to try them out, and still another had married a wife, he could not come.

Jesus Christ has said we must forsake all for His sake. Reader, are any of your friends keeping you from doing your part, keeping you out of the church? I have heard some say when my wife is ready, or when my children are ready. Jesus has said unless we are willing to forsake father, mother, sister, brother, son or daughter, husband or wife for my sake ye cannot be my disciples. We cannot afford to let our best friend stand between us and Jesus Christ for he that knoweth to do good and doeth it not to him it is sin.

What excuse shall we be able to offer at that great day of the Lord God almighty? How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation? The rich man that died and went to hell, looked back over his past life, after he had died and was buried, realizing his mistakes; he realized his condition; he prayed as he never prayed before; he realized he had omitted his part; he remembered his father's house; he remembered his five brethren who needed the gospel preached to them; he realized they had a work to do in this great plan of salvation; he realized if they failed in doing their part they too would be tormented in the same flame.

Jesus said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness..." He also said search the scriptures, that we may be able to do our part. May we with the apostle say, "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind..." If the apostle Paul could forget his past life, the things he had done before he was converted, I should think we ought to be able to do the same. May the good Lord help us to reach forth unto those things which are before, that is doing our part – that is when we are looking in the right direction.

May we in the coming year 1933 press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus as we never did before. May we look forward for a city which hath foundations whose maker and builder is God, for here have we no continuing city, the time is coming when we shall go the way of all the earth whether we are ready or not.

It is appointed unto man once to die, after that the judgment. God is no respecter of persons – we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, there to give an account of our deeds whether good or evil.

When our time comes may we say, "Come, welcome death". May we realize the gift of God is eternal life only through Jesus Christ our Lord, "Not every one that saith Lord, Lord, but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven."

Again, who so looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continue therein, he being not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the word this man shall be blessed in his deed.

May we be able to say with the author of my text, "I have fought a good fight."

THE DAUGHTERS HAVE AN INHERITANCE

Joshua 17:6a, "Because the daughters of Marasseh had an inheritance among his sons:..."

I Timothy 5:1-3, "Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; The elder women as

mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity. Honour widows that are widows indeed."

We are living in an androgynous society. That is a society that no longer recognizes a difference between the sexes. Clothing, hair styles and employment are all uni-sex today in the eyes of most individuals. The earthly church, as a whole, has sacrificed the blessing of God upon womanhood upon the altar of so-called equal rights.

From the Creation God has recognized the value of women. Even as the daughters of Manasseh had an inheritance among his sons, the daughters of God, those washed in the blood of the Lamb, have an inheritance that is eternal along with the sons of God. In Galatians 3:28 we read, "... there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

Satan has taken this God-given inheritance and replaced it with a counterfeit. The liberals, Holiness groups and Pentecostals take this verse out of context and use it to explain away the truths of Scripture. They contend that if God calls a woman to preach, man has no right to deny her this calling. We agree! However, the Holy Scriptures make it quite clear that God never called a woman to preach. When a woman ignores I Timothy 2:12, "But I suffer not a woman to teach, (Greek - "didaskain" - "authoritative instruction") nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence," she voluntarily gives up a blessing of God and places her very soul salvation in jeopardy.

If we would take the scriptural advice to treat the elder women as mothers and the younger as sisters, with all purity, we would not have the problem of adultery so prevalent in the modern church. Do we honor the widows, as the Bible instructs, or leave them to the mercy of the "wolves?" This passage of scripture in I Timothy speaks of respect. It is something that has been lost, to a large degree, both in society and the earthly church.

As we indicated earlier, the whole problem revolves on the mistaken concept of so-called equal rights. While there may be a place for equal rights in the work place, God never taught equal rights in the church. The fact that racial equality and women's rights have been lumped together as one issue is a sad commentary on the wisdom of mankind. The changes that have been made, over the years, in the Church, confirm that this equal rights teaching has gained greater respectability. These changes include the elimination of separate seating, women teaching men in Sunday School classes, and greater participation of women in the Church's program.

God will bless our sisters for their scriptural obedience. When God said in I Timothy 2:9, "In like manner also, (which includes men), that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with

shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array." this is exactly what he meant in spite of the modern interpretation.

When is the last time you heard or read the instructions for young women in the church? Very few are willing to tell our young sisters what God desires for their lives. In I Timothy 5:14, God says (through the Apostle Paul) "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully." It may be that not all will marry. We do not believe this is an absolute. But we do believe it is wrong to refuse to marry, simply, to have a desired career. We know that some have never been blessed with children. We also, personally, believe it is not wrong to limit the size of a family if it is for financial reasons or a woman's health. But the attitude of many today who believe a large family is next to sinful (if not actually sinful) is not based on scripture but on the greed of mankind. The bearing of children is one blessing God has given woman that man will never experience. Do we allow the women to "guide the house" or do we insist that the man of the house must make all decisions on his own?

Sisters, do not allow Satan or the worldly society to rob you of your inheritance. Do not be ashamed to look like a woman, to act like a woman and to be a mother if God allows you this blessing. Men, let us treat our sisters with the respect God demands of us and recognize that the daughters have an inheritance along with the sons of God.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

The Mistake – How Corrected?

J. H. Moore

I once baptized a very earnest woman who stood well in the city where she resided, and where her husband carried on a large mercantile business. She had long been connected with one of the denominations of the city, and of course attired herself to suit the society in which she moved. But she got to attending the Brethren services quite regularly, her husband being a member of long standing. In those days much attention was given to the New Testament doctrines. I thought it in perfect keeping with my calling as a minister to preach at least one doctrinal sermon a month. The idea was to indoctrinate the members and convert sinners. The people would turn out to hear discourses of that class more readily than they turn out to listen to the easy-going sermons of today.

The woman referred to was sincere. She meant to do the right thing and sought for the truth with commendable earnestness. She would listen to a discourse on trine immersion with intense interest, and never once think of complaining because the minister took up the whole of one hour presenting his arguments. Then there were sermons on the design of baptism, feet-washing as a religious rite, the Lord's supper as a gospel institution and the loaf and cup of the New Testament. A sermon on the philosophy of nonconformity helped the woman to do some right thinking, but just how to get the full consent of her mind to give up her fashionable attire proved the hard struggle in her religious experience.

But she finally made a decision. Many came out on the Lord's side and demanded New Testament baptism. She was among the number, and her coming to the church caused no little stir among her old acquaintances. The woman was not difficult to baptize. She had strong nerves and entered the water with the full determination that the water-grave should serve as a distinct line separating her former religious life from the life that she was to live in later years. That was a bright day for the church as well as for the band of believers who had been buried with Christ in the holy act of Christian baptism. All of them had pledged themselves to live a life of faithfulness until death, and so I felt assured that they would.

But a week or more after the inspiring services at the water side I chanced to meet the sister in question, on a crowded street, attired in her fine fashionable dress bonnet, looking just as she did with her former church. There were scores of members on the street that day, and, of course, they too would meet the sister and would wonder what all this meant. I shook hands with her, talked with her for quite a while, for she was very entertaining, but all the time pretended not to notice that very fashionable headgear. I said not one word to the sister about her appearance, though I had an excellent opportunity of doing so.

An hour later I had time to think. I knew that the sister appearing on the street in that manner would cause a talk, and according to the church custom of that time it would be necessary to send some deacons to admonish her and instruct her more perfectly. Then it occurred to me that newborn creatures in the kingdom of God are sometimes very tender, and that a little unskillful handling might cripple them spiritually for life. So, leaving the deacons and everybody else out of the question, I called on a very devout sister, one who stood well with the church and who was held in high esteem by the sister in question. I told her of the situation and suggested that she take the matter in hand, saying nothing to others about it.

I left the case with the sister and went on about my work; but that was the last time I ever saw that fashionable bonnet. The woman lived a very consistent and exemplary life and nearly thirty

years later was laid to rest by the side of her husband. They both died in the faith, beloved and respected by a large circle of friends. Probably to her dying day the sister never knew anything about the part I took in having her assisted in a critical period of her early Christian life. And not till ten years after the occurrence did the sister, whom I sent, report to me the results of her visit.

This experience has ever since prompted me to exercise all possible discretion in dealing with members who unintentionally make mistakes. Just one wrong move upon the part of church officials, in such instances, may sometimes prove disastrous. Young converts are sensitive. At times they are tender. They may even be weak in the faith, and for these reasons ought to have the best of care. We often send deacons to look after erring ones when we ought to send sisters. When a member of the family gets dangerously sick we frequently employ a well-trained nurse. We want some one who knows how to take care of the sick. Why not exercise the same judgment when one of the members of the flock becomes weak or sick spiritually? Did we deal more wisely in matters of this sort, we might be the means, in the hands of God, of converting many more people from the error of their way.

NEWS ITEMS

NOTICE

It would be much appreciated if the Secretary of each of the various Boards that wish their reports to be printed in General Conference Programs would have them in my hands by April 6, 1993.

1992 General Conference Writing Clerk,
Elder Harley Flory

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Lord willing, the Pleasant Ridge Congregation will have Revival Services, March 19 through March 28, with Bro. Kenny Wilkerson as evangelist. There will be a Lovefeast service on Saturday, March 27, with services beginning at 11:00 A.M. The evening service will begin at 7:00 P.M.

A warm welcome is extended to all who can come and worship with us.

Sister Marjorie Flory, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 1993

March 7 - Healing the Centurion's Servant - Matthew 8:1-15.

1. What challenges face us when we "come down" from spiritual mountain tops?
2. What impressed Jesus about the centurion?

March 14 - Jesus Casts Out Devils and Calms the Sea - Matthew 8:16-34.

1. How do demons influence us today?
2. What lessons did the disciples learn while in the ship?

March 21 - Forgiveness, Call of Matthew, Teaching, Miracles - Matt. 9:1-26.

1. What did Jesus do and say that upset the Pharisees?
2. What was the key to the healing of the sick woman? verse 22.

March 28 - Lord of the Harvest - Matthew 9:27-38.

1. How did Jesus "see" the multitudes?
2. Are we moved by the needs around us?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 1993

March 7 - Beheading of John the Baptist - Matthew 14:1-13.

1. Why did Herod place John in prison?
2. What lesson does this story teach concerning vows?

March 14 - Our Instruction - Proverbs 1:1-19, John 6:45, Eph. 4:21-23.

1. How does instruction affect our life?
2. Where are you getting your instruction?

March 21 - Our Experiences - Ecclesiastes 3:1-12, Romans 5:1-12.

1. How are we products of our experiences?
2. What role does God play in our life experiences?

March 28 - Paul's Shipwreck - Acts 27:7-44.

1. Why was Paul on this voyage to Rome?
2. How did God protect and comfort Paul on the voyage?

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
-------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS

I love thy skies, thy sunny mists,
Thy fields, thy mountains hoar,
Thy wind that bloweth where it lists;
Thy will, I love it more.

I love thy hidden truth to seek
All around, in sea, on shore;
The arts whereby like gods we speak;
Thy will to me is more.

I love thy men and women, Lord,
The children round thy door,
Calm thoughts that inward strength afford;
Thy will, O Lord, is more.

But when thy will my life shall hold,
Thine to the very core,
The world which that same will did mold
I shall love ten times more.

- George Macdonald

HOLIER THAN THOU

When thinking of someone with a "holier than thou" attitude, we usually think of the Pharisee, who went up to the Temple, supposedly, to pray. Actually he went there to remind God what a good person he was. He reminded God that his righteousness far exceeded that of the nearby publican. This particular Pharisee serves as a model of the Pharisees in general. Jesus, often, called them hypocrites.

Those who manifest a "holier than thou" attitude usually are thought to be hypocrites. They consider themselves to be superior to others. They believe they are amongst the few who can ever please God, although the standard of their excellence is of their own design. Jesus warned of those who did not recognize their own sickness, while they prescribed for the spiritual ills of others. They truly needed the Great Physician.

Those with a "holier than thou" attitude do not understand why others cannot do as they do. They do not understand the differences that naturally exist amongst people. They do not understand the various cultural and educational experiences that have shaped people. Some people are more compatible than others; some are more extroverted; still others are more compulsive. These differences help shape the type of person each one is.

These differences cannot become crutches that prevent the fulfillment of the Christian duties that are the responsibility of each believer. The differences in individual make-up only make fellowship more enjoyable. If all had the same background and personality, little would get accomplished, for all would be doing the

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same thing, the same way. These differences only emphasize the varying gifts or talents that God has given to His believing children. These talents are given so the Church, the body of Christ, will be complete. With the many talents available, the work given the Church can be completed more readily.

None of us would want to be considered a hypocrite. None of us would want the reputation of being "holier than thou". Yet, there is a need in the Church, today, for an increase in holiness. Perhaps we actually do need more people who are holier than the rest of the population. Without a holiness that exceeds that of the world or the Pharisees, there is little to distinguish the Church from the world. The Christian's holiness may be so foreign to a pleasure-loving world that they will think of Christians as "holier than thou", but such a life is the fruit of God's operation within the believer. If the believer lives as the surrounding world lives, there will be little evident reason for anyone in the world to make a commitment to Jesus Christ.

It is evident that a Christian will fail many times in his walk in this world. He will make mistakes. He will stumble and fall. But his desire and effort has to be toward avoiding the pitfalls that are so prevalent. He has to strive to live a life that is holy. Too much emphasis can be given to the slipping and falling and not enough given to the requirements of a normal, fruitful Christian life. Too much time may be given to analyzing and discussing a person's psychological makeup and not enough time to the teaching and building of a righteous, Christian life.

Christians are told, over and over again, throughout the New Testament to be holy. They are to be like Jesus Christ. As adoptive members of God's Family, they need to pattern themselves after God's only Begotten Son. They need to worry less about making themselves conformable to the surrounding world. There needs to be less distress over the sins of others and more concern about personal sins. There needs to be a desire and effort to mold the life in the image that God has decreed in His Word. There needs to be less argument over the necessity of Biblical requirements and more effort expended in complying with those requirements. There needs to be less fighting the need for doing this, and more genuine desire to present a Godly image to a world dying in its sins and pleasures, waiting for a better example of holiness to be shown it by the Church. There needs to be less pride and more humility. Christians need to be humble enough to follow the Church's regulations, even when they are not always so evidently necessary in one's own mind. There needs to be less dating the commandments of the Scriptures, trying to make them apply only to some, long-past age.

God created man in His own image. Man has pretty well marred that image. It is left to the Christians to show the image of God through their Christian lives. They are to be holy, because God is holy.

Without being converted, no one can ever be holy. Once there is a new life through Jesus Christ, that life must be conformed to His image. Are you merely a "holier than thou" hypocrite or are you truly holier than the world around you?

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Our Christian Families

God is calling us to be different than the world around us. We are to have different marriages, different families and different life styles than the other people in our communities. In the Book of Ephesians, Paul tells us that we are not to walk as the heathen walk. We are to walk in love, not in lust... in light, not in darkness, in wisdom, not in foolishness, in the Spirit and not in the flesh. We are not to live selfishly but are to be unselfish and other-centered. In an age when the ego seems to be the most talked about part of our being... we as Christians are to suppress the ego and be possessed by the control of the Holy Spirit. We are to be DIFFERENT.

Now, being different is not popular thinking in the world in which we live. To conform is the way of least resistance. But God called His people, Israel, to be clearly separated from the other peoples of the world from the very beginning. In Leviticus 18, when God laid down the Law of behavior for Israel, He taught them, then, that they should not run after the "doings of the land" (of Egypt)... that they should not "do after the doings of the Land of Canaan." Instead, they were to "keep His judgments, His ordinances, His statutes." Why? Because He was God!

Later on He taught the people not to defile themselves in "any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you and the land is defiled. Therefore, I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants."

From the beginning it was God's intention that His people be separate, set apart, and not conformed to the world and, yet, it seems it is so difficult to abide by this principle today. Even in the area of marriage and the family, it is obvious that we have become victimized by the system. Our desire to be what our society tells us to be has caused the destruction of many marriages and families. God is still giving us the same message that He gave in Ephesians... that He gave in Leviticus 18... DO IT MY WAY. It is

the only way that will lead to happiness and stability. We cannot listen to what the world says because we are not of this world anymore. We have overcome the world and when we left it for the cause of Christ, we took on His standards.

Unless we understand God's standards for the family and begin to put them into operation in our homes, we will have nothing to pass on to the next generation. We need only to look at Russia and Eastern Europe to see what happens when the Christian influence is neglected and suppressed.

If we would look back to Eastern Europe and even to China in the time of Hudson Taylor, we would find that Christian growth was real and viable during that time. But look at those areas now. Generation after generation have been raised without any concept of God or Christianity. Of course, it is ironic that America seems to have rapidly come to the place where she is in the same condition or nearing that position and at the same time, there are some indications of revival in these other countries.

There is an old Chinese proverb that says... "ONE GENERATION PLANTS THE TREES AND THE NEXT GENERATION GETS THE SHADE." This holds true in the planning of Godly teaching in Godly families. Do we see the great tree planting that we should see? What are we planting in our homes that will shelter the children from the heat of the world's evil sun? What are we doing to protect them from the disintegrating rays? We can't just sit around and think to ourselves that the generation to follow us is just going to turn out all right on their own... because they are not! Until we come out of the world and begin to be separated and stand apart and until we begin to define the Biblical life style and teach it in its fullest to our children... passing it on no matter what the cost... we are not going to have anything for the next generation. We will not please God.

I never thought I would be so concerned about the families of the conservative church. We have always stood alone in the world and have lived lives with the emphasis on the spiritual rather than the carnal and temporal. Could it be that Satan, through electronic technology, is seducing us and, as a result, is destroying our families? Could it be that the waning commitment of our families is... or will... carry right on in to the church? I would challenge us to stand alone on Jesus Christ. We absolutely must do this in these days if we are going to stay untouched by the witness of the world.

How can we do this? That will be the next part of our story in issues to follow.

WHY THERE IS NO REVIVAL

I have spoken to many, in my twenty years of Christian life, regarding why there is no revival like there was at one time. Many of the older Brethren talk about meetings where dozens were saved: meetings that went on for weeks and months at a time. Sadly, these events have taken place well in the past. There are many reasons why we do not see salvation on a grand scale anymore.

Keep in mind it is not God's fault. People are ready to quote scriptures, such as, "the love of many shall wax cold." It is true, but man is doing it, not God. Do not blame Him for removing His spirit when men are unwilling to give up the material things of this life for the spiritual good of someone. Do not blame God if you would rather make your church look good than glorify Him. When it becomes easier to throw someone out of the church than to lovingly deal with him to win him back, then do not expect God to deal lovingly with you or draw your children to Him.

I have studied revivals of the past. Not just meetings confined to certain churches, but city, county, and state-wide, yes even country-wide revivals. They usually did not begin with preaching, but with prayer. Whole groups of people on their faces before God: not concerned with their daily needs, but concerned for the unconverted. I have no quarrel with evangelistic meetings. They are necessary. But I believe there is a difference between an evangelistic meeting and a revival. We have to be careful of terminology. For instance, can a prayer meeting that only has ten minutes of prayer be truthfully called a prayer meeting? Prayer is not just a sideline, it is a necessity; it is a foundation.

When was the last time we saw one person weeping over a lost soul? Can you envision dozens of Christians shedding REAL tears over lost humanity? People not worried for their own comfort, whether they are hungry or whether there is enough heat in the church or how many hours they have remained in that particular spot? We have not discussed most people's first love, here, namely the Almighty Dollar. That has been amply discussed in previous articles.

Do we prefer our brethren or do we long for the preeminence? Do we keep our cool all year only to explode with anger during council meetings? If we have a problem with someone should we wait until council meeting or should we deal with it immediately? Matthew 5:23-24 says, "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." Before another Love-feast, or even another Lords Day goes by, first be reconciled to thy brother. Before another meal or another night's rest goes by, be

reconciled to thy brother. Why is it not done? Because we do not love our brethren enough. We are content that our opinions and our behavior offend others. We have a "so there" attitude. May God help us to see that before another soul is truly saved through our influences we must, as Brethren, be one in the Lord.

Why is there no revival? Have we ever picked a drunk up out of the gutter and told him we love him and God loves him? Have we ever spoken to our employer about his soul at the risk of our job? How is our attitude toward those that visit our assembly to worship? Do they see our joy in the Lord and do they covet it for themselves? There are always going to be problems in the church, but how we handle them will determine the church's future.

Why no revival? Is it truly our desire to be revived and be closer to the Lord or are we happy and satisfied the way we are? A lot of folks, like Ananias and Sapphira, want to keep part of this life for themselves. Some, in order to be right with God, would have to start doing some things they do not do presently, like witnessing, praising the Lord, giving sacrificially, and the like.

Does what we write seem farfetched? Read about revival in the Book of Acts. Read about the Welsh revival of 1904. Read about the revival in America in the 1750's and in England in the 1880's. Were they just a week or so of meetings? Or did the people put aside their wants and seek the face of the Lord above?

Oh, help us, Lord, to know your divine will for our lives and to seek your face daily. Help us, please, to put the souls of others above our own comfort and help us to lift up and glorify the matchless Name of Jesus!

Your comments and criticisms are welcome.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

LET THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD SAY SO

Psalm 107:2, "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy."

I Corinthians 2:15, "But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man."

II Corinthians 4:3-4, "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

We have not changed our mind concerning the question of the Church being involved in politics. We believe Church history and the Holy Scriptures, if rightly understood, teaches us that we should

not be involved in this world's system which includes politics. Yet it concerns us when a man in high leadership position claims to be a Christian and supports the very things that the Bible condemns. This has been reflected in the teaching and preaching of the liberal church for several years now. There was a time when such teaching would have been labeled heresy. But today the "heretics", according to popular opinion, are those who refuse to go along with popular theology.

It is time that we "let the redeemed of the Lord say so." For too long many Christians have hidden behind, and misused, Matthew 7:1, "Judge not, that ye be not judged." The Apostle Paul, through the leading of the Holy Spirit, clearly tells us, "he that is spiritual judgeth all things." In reality, as Brother Paul Hartz said in a recent sermon, there is no reason we have to judge the sins being defended by recent political leadership and the liberal church, the Bible has already done so! With the one possible exception of a mother's life being in danger, abortion is murder. **LET THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD SAY SO!** While we do not have any strong feelings concerning capital punishment other than a Christian should not be the one to administer it, we think it is strange that church leaders cry out in protest against taking the life of an individual who has taken the life of another, many times coupled with other torturous treatment, while defending the taking of an innocent life in the womb. Homosexuality is clearly condemned in Holy Scripture. **LET THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD SAY SO!** Since we do not believe that a Christian should serve in the military we are not overly concerned if homosexuals are allowed to serve their country in this capacity or not. Perhaps if they are to be given all their "rights" they **SHOULD** be given the right to die for their country. We will allow our leadership in government to make the final decision on this. The fact that at least one denomination now allows homosexuals and lesbians to serve in places of leadership, while several others are strongly leaning in this direction, concerns us much more than the military issue.

The real problem is that many have lost sight of who the real enemy of our soul is. Many believe and teach that sin, if such a thing even exists anymore, is a psychological problem. The reality of Satan and demons is put into the realm of superstition. It is no wonder that "the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not." We realize that we will be considered judgmental, but those who deny a need of the blood of Jesus Christ to wash away our sins are not saved according to the Holy Word of God. As our Lord Jesus Christ taught in Matthew 15:14, "...they be blind leaders of the blind..." Satan and his demons are real and all blood washed Christians are they "whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy." **LET THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD SAY SO!**

We have to keep in mind that as Christians we are judged of no man. It is a Holy God who judges us out of His Holy Word. Do we have the right to judge others when we refuse to obey the teachings of Holy Scripture? We believe it is good in the eyes of God to have church rules and regulations. We believe our Dunkard Brethren Church has historically stood for things which bring honor and glory to our Lord and are sad to see many of these things being laid aside. But perhaps we have wrongly thought that doing these things was a part of our salvation. On the other hand, we are quite disturbed about the cry of legalism that is becoming a popular topic for radio and television preachers along with Christian authors. In Deuteronomy 4:2 God commanded the nation of Israel, "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I commanded you." While we are not under Old Testament commandments, we believe God demands the same for the Church under New Testament teachings. **LET THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD SAY SO!**

We have to defeat the powers of Satan if the glorious gospel of Christ is to shine unto them that are lost. We cannot do this of our own strength. We need the power of the Holy Spirit working within our lives. We cannot allow the world to have possession of our thoughts and our desires and expect the Holy Spirit to have control. We have been redeemed from the power of sin, not made sinless. But if nothing is sin anymore what have we been redeemed from? We can get so uptight about abortion and homosexuality, and rightly so, that we excuse the "popular sins" of those who profess to be Christians, especially those that WE have a problem with.

If you have had an abortion or have a problem with homosexuality God loves you and wants to redeem you with the precious blood of Christ. No matter what your situation in life, if you have never accepted Christ as your personal Savior He desires to be your Redeemer. Let each of us desire to love our Lord more and live a life pleasing to Him. Speaking out against those things which are displeasing unto Him who died for us. **LET THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD SAY SO!**

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

PASS THE SALT!

Part 2

Church Containers

Now this is where the church comes in. Each church is like a container of salt. The containers are different – small, large, fancy,

or plain – but each is full of different amounts of salt. I have a large jar of salt stored in my pantry, but there's a salt shaker on my table for every day use.

Now bear with me, while I ask a simple question: How do I salt my eggs? Do I move the salt shaker closer to them? Should I sit the salt shaker on top of them? Obviously, I need to shake some salt onto my eggs because salt only works by **DIRECT CONTACT**. This is important. God called us salt because He wants us to be in direct contact with things that need salting.

A church container without holes is **NOT** a salt shaker – it's a storage jar. Perhaps we need to punch more holes in the tops of our churches and let Jesus shake us loose. Maybe this is part of the shaking God is allowing us to experience. He knows if we settle in and clump together we'll be useless. It's easy to get comfortable in our own little "Christian Club" and forget about being in direct contact with the world we're called to reach.

I want to clarify something here. It's important for every Christian to have a relationship with his local church and with the ministers. We all need structures of accountability. Our local church is where we're nurtured, challenged, taught, corrected, and encouraged. The church is where we grow and find fellowship. But "going to church" is a means to an end – not an end in itself. Our vision must be much bigger. Our church should be our launching pad for winning the world for Jesus. **IT SHOULD BE OUR HOME BASE – NOT OUR RETIREMENT VILLAGE!** Until the sheep, and the shepherds, understand this, we won't be able to rise to the occasion of God's call for this generation.

Salt Must Be Broken

When a clump of salt blocks the holes of your salt shaker, you break it up so it can be shaken out and used. We can't be used in rock form either. Often God lets us go through a breaking process so we can be used – a few grains at a time. Jesus was broken for us and we remember His brokenness when we take Communion. Wheat must be broken before bread can be made, and we must be broken before we can minister to a broken world. If we aren't broken we're probably creating a log jam in God's will somewhere. But God in His faithfulness wants us to flow freely as the salt of the earth.

Getting broken is never fun. Sometimes in the process we feel like we're being crushed. But here's an encouraging word. If you grind salt down to powder and put it under a microscope it will still be shaped in little square crystals – no matter how fine the powder gets. So even when we're broken we can be assured we won't lose our uniqueness or the distinctive mark of Jesus. In fact the smaller we get, the bigger He can be!

The Salt Balance

The salt balance in our bodies is delicate. If we have too much our body holds extra fluid resulting in swelling. This puts stress on every organ, especially the heart because it has to pump the extra fluid. This may cause heart problems resulting in the need for a "salt-free" diet – which is not totally salt free because without enough salt, our body won't retain enough water. Then our blood pressure drops, we go into shock, and you guessed it, we die. So too little is as bad as too much. We can't live without salt, but a perfect balance is needed.

As the salt of the earth, we must be in the right place, at the right time, with the right amount. We all know too much salt ruins a good meal. Has the lid of your salt shaker ever fallen off leaving a mountain of salt in your soup? It's the end of your soup unless you're cooking for five hundred! Then you may need to add more. We need the right amount of salt to suit the occasion – a pinch for personal ministry, a cup for bigger projects. It's not a value judgement, but rather discerning just how much impact is needed to adequately salt the situation.

It only takes one person to share the Lord with someone or counsel a fellow struggler. If twenty people all tried at once it would be overwhelming – even damaging. Just BEING salty thoughts won't season anything. In big projects as well as small, we need to make direct contact!

LORD, LET ME SEE THE PEOPLE

Lord, let me see the people; there's so many now in need.
 Lord, let me take the message; let me plant the seed.
 There's someone now that's hurting. They're broken deep inside.
 Oh, lead me, sweet, sweet Spirit; in your love let me abide.

CHORUS:

Lord, let me see the people; Lord, let me see the people,
 More than just a steeple pointing to the sky.
 Let me go where they are hurting. Cry, when they cry.
 Lord, Let me see the people. Lord, don't let them die.

Lord, let me see my neighbors. There's so many that I know.
 Lord, let me be a blessing; lead me, Holy Dove.
 There's a baby somewhere crying...
 There's a broken hearted lad...
 There's a mother that is missing...
 And a home that needs a dad.

Compiled

SIXTY YEARS AGO

March 1, 1933

YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

D. K. Marks

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." (Matthew 5:14) This is a part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

Before Jesus had come into the world man had forsaken the law of God, plunged in sin and wickedness, wandering about in darkness, looking for a light. Finally Jesus came into the world bringing light and salvation. Surely it is the most wonderful sermon that was ever preached. We take notice that it was taught and preached to His disciples, His true followers.

Jesus takes a simple, familiar illustration. A city that is set (or built) on a hill cannot be hid, it is always visible from every direction every day in the year, so Jesus meant that His followers should be known always wherever they go.

"Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick and it giveth light to all that are in the house." (Matthew 5:15) Naturally speaking it would be very foolish to make light and cover it up, sooner or later the light would be smothered out.

Why is it that Christian (?) men and women go to and fro hiding the religion of Jesus Christ under the fashions of the world? Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and My words in this sinful and adulterous generation, of him also shall the Son of Man be ashamed when He cometh in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.

That will be a very sad time when Jesus comes to gather His saints and those are left behind who have not been true and faithful to His commandments. It surely will pay to let our light shine for Jesus. He promises us eternal life; we shall reign with Him forever and ever. The gospel speaks of five crowns awaiting the true and faithful. James 1:12 speaks of a crown of life. Paul in I Corinthians 9:25 speaks of the incorruptible crown. Paul in I Thessalonians 2:19 speaks of the crown of rejoicing. I Peter 5:4 speaks of the crown of glory. II Timothy 4:8 speaks of a crown of righteousness.

May our light shine forth in the fruit of the spirit, love, joy, peace, longsuffering and patience.

Be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind. Jesus came to set up a standard of living, different from the foolish, proud, and sinful pleasures of the world. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16).

We again see that Jesus requires good works in our walk and conduct, in our dealings one with another, therefore as we have opportunity let us do good unto all men, especially unto the household of faith.

May this message of Jesus ring in our ears as we go through life.

OBITUARY

RUTHANNA SAUERWEIN

Sister Ruthanna Grace Sauerwein, the second daughter of Bro. Jesse A. and Sis. Emma J. (Bowers) Sauerwein, was born at the family home place near Taneytown, Maryland, on July 29, 1929.

As a child, she was carried to the nearby little brick church (Walnut Grove) where she developed a deep love and respect for God and the plain way of life. This encouraged her to heed the Master's call at a youthful age and be baptized into the kingdom of God to which she remained faithful throughout her life. She served the church as Chorister, Secretary, Primary Sunday School Teacher, and Monitor Correspondent.

The joys of their home were broken when her Dad was stricken by a fatal heart attack on December 13, 1959. After his death it was determined that she and Mother could not continue the responsibilities on the family farm. Therefore, they moved to a smaller one floor home near Littlestown, Pennsylvania. Sis. Ruthanna possessed a quiet and unassuming nature. She was a great comfort to her Mother; and together they shared the joys and sorrows of life. Ruthanna attended every worship service possible until in later years her physical disability (Muscular Dystrophy) interrupted her normal routine in life.

She fell and broke her shoulder. After hospitalization and therapy, it was decided that she could not be cared for in their home any longer. Sis. Ruthanna became a resident at the Green Acres Home in Gettysburg. Slowly, the Potter began to fashion the now moldable vessel. Those thirteen years at the Home proved to be both blessed and fruitful. God had given opportunity for Ruthanna to wheel herself room to room and share the Word by reading and discussing scripture. She was an inspiration and living example to all around her. She will be long remembered for her kind words and deeds shown to all. Thus, many lives were touched for the Master. In part, one solitary woman faithfully served her God. She started a chain reaction that will continue into eternity. We never think of Sis. Ruthanna but that we're reminded of the words of a chorus, "It only takes a spark to get a fire going." Ruthanna allowed herself to be a spark for her God! How about YOU?

Later other health problems took great grace and strength. Upon entering the hospital on December 26, 1992, she requested and

received the anointing according to James 5:14. All who visited her were encouraged and uplifted by the amount of scripture she had committed to memory. She lived only to please the God she loved.

It was on Monday morning, December 28th, that we heard of Ruthanna's "Homegoing." After 63 years she is doing what she loves to do best – praising her wonderful Lord and WALKING on the streets of gold!

Preceding her in death were her parents and oldest sister, Dottie Pifer. Left with precious memories are a sister and her husband, Sis. Betty J. and Bro. Emmert Shelly of Littlestown, Pennsylvania; a brother and his wife, Jesse James and Beatrice Sauerwein; nieces, nephews, many friends, and those of the Faith across the Brotherhood.

Funeral services were held December 30th at the Mummert's Meeting House near Abbottstown conducted by Bro. Ray Stuber being assisted by Bro. Galen Shelly. Her body was laid to rest in the adjoining cemetery where lay her ancestors of several generations, there to await the Lord's return. Bro. Emmert Shelly had charge of this service.

As a Family, we wish to express our sincere thanks to all for their visits and spiritual strength administered to her throughout the years of her handicap and to us in our time of sorrow.

The following poem written by Bro. Ray Stuber was selected by the family to accompany her obituary. Once again the invitation to trust in the Lord is extended – Will YOU meet her there?

THE DOOR OF DEATH

The dash is completed between the dates
 for Sister Ruthanna... time is no more.
 This life that she once lived while here
 has gone through... that open door.
 A door of Deliverance to her it was –
 a joy to see her KING!
 A Door of Desire with her whole heart
 true gladness there it will bring.
 A Door of Dawning where time is past
 and Eternity takes its view.
 A Door of Dignity in a land of splendor
 where all things are anew.
 A Door of Delight for her has opened
 of beauties beyond compare.
 A Door of Durability – of lasting strength...
 Will YOU meet her there?

Or will you enter through the Door of Dread
in a place of greatest pain.
A Door of Darkness – you cannot see
although there's an eternal flame.
A Door of Depth where there's no end
as on and on it will go.
A Door of Derision where you are mocked
by the evil one – your foe.
A Door of Destruction, Oh, what a place!
Who there would want to stay?
A Door of the Damned with no hope...
Won't YOU close that door today?

Allow the door of YOUR heart
to be opened to the Savior's knock.
And turn YOUR back on Satan's power
and join with the Shepherd's flock.
Oh, won't YOU while YOU still have time
let Christ be welcomed in?
And when the Door of Death YOU face
Sister Ruthanna YOU can see again!

NEWS ITEM

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

The Dallas Center Congregation invites you to our Spring Lovefeast services to be held, the Lord willing, April 3 and 4. Services begin at 10:45, Saturday morning with the Lovefeast service that evening.

Come worship with us!

Sister Becky Funk, Cor.

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Frank L. Reed
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Box 7
Manheim, PA 17645

(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXI

MARCH 15, 1993

NO. 6

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
-------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH

Of the way is dark and rugged, Of the shadow hides the sun,
Trembling, fearing, doubting, fainting, Much I need Thee, Holy One.
When the world's allurements tempt me, Hollow tho' I know they be,
"Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah," I will follow none but Thee.

Thro' the ages saints have followed Where Thy guiding footsteps lead,
Of Thy Cross and wondrous Passion, In Thy Holy Word I read.
None but Thee can lead me safely Thro' life's troubled, thorny way.
"Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah," Thro' the gloomy night to day.

I would follow where Thou leadest, Valley deep or mountain side,
Over oceans ridged with billows, Or on calm and fav'ring tide;
Be my fate a martyr's triumph, Or 'neath sunny skies to roam,
"Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah," Till I gain my Glory Home.

Death shalt lose its sting and terror If my faith on Thee is staid;
Guilty tho' I am, yet ransom By Thy suff'ring Thou hast paid.
I shall pass the gloomy portal Safely if Thou art my friend, -
"Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah," Till my pilgrimage shall end.

DISCOVERIES

The first lessons about American History concern the discovery of the Americas. The European discoverers had great courage and persistence to sail across the dangerous Atlantic Ocean in small ships with primitive navigational instruments. The accidental discovery of the American continents by men looking for a way to the Orient was a great event in the History of the world. Of course, the Native Americans may have thought it strange that they were discovered, when they knew where they were all the time.

As more explorers continued to search the lands that they had discovered, more detailed information became known about the lakes, streams, rivers and mountains. As more became known, more people were drawn to the land, that was unknown just a few years before. Today the United States is a well mapped country. There are few physical features left to discover.

The discoveries that are being made, now, are discoveries of relationships between the various parts of the world. Those searching the earth for her secrets are finding that the various parts of the plant and animal kingdoms are highly integrated. God did not create this world in a disorganized, unrelated way. In fact, one of the best proofs of His creative work is the high degree of organization found in His creation. His creation is not a hodge-podge formed from the chance formation of random atoms. God's creation is well ordered and interdependent. If it were not so well ordered, scientists could not make their detailed studies of the earth and all that is in it. Their studies presume that there is an order to the universe, although many scientists would be unwilling to admit that that order is the result of God's creation.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

March 15, 1993

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Scientists have made many discoveries in all fields of human knowledge. All these discoveries are but a confirmation of God's laws that have been in operation since the creation of the earth. Although men did not understand all that was happening, either within or around them, those laws were operating all the time. Men may have believed that the earth was flat, but that did not change the earth's true shape all those intellectually darkened centuries. God's laws have operated all this time without men's understanding or affirmation.

God has established laws that not only pertain to the physical world, but also to the Spiritual realm. Often men have been ignorant of these laws and have tried to order their lives according to their own understanding and knowledge. Unlike the laws pertaining to the physical realm, it seems that as men become, in their own minds, more intelligent, they have become more confused about the established Spiritual laws of God. The more men have depended on their understanding the less they have been willing to depend upon God and His direction for their lives.

God did not reveal the laws of the physical universe to men. He allowed them to be discovered. Although the laws of nature that are spoken of in the Bible are accurate, the Bible is not primarily a scientific textbook. The Bible was given to men as a revelation of God's laws concerning the Spiritual realm of men's lives. The Bible gives men a better view of Spiritual truths than God has revealed to men concerning the physical world that surrounds us, yet men seem to know more of the physical world than they do of the Spiritual. The physical laws of this world have effect upon men only as long as they live, but God's Spiritual laws are in effect for eternity. Men should study to know what God expects of each one.

Each person discovers that the things he thought he could change when he was young are the very things that are established beyond his ability to change. The years provide experience that book study can never duplicate. Men find as they grow older that they should have heeded godly advice offered them during their youth.

Each person has to discover what his true standing is with God. Each must realize that he is a sinner and that the message of God's Word is directed right at him. To ignore God's revealed Word is to ignore the most important information that a man could ever know. What a person does with God's laws will determine not only the future course of his earthly life, but also the future of his eternity.

You may not know of or care about the various laws governing the physical world, but you must know and obey the laws concerning the Spiritual part of your life. Have you made the most important discovery of all?

THE THIRTIETH PROVERB PERSONALIZED

The words of Kim, the child of Andrew, even the warning the girl wrote unto Rebecca, even to Rebecca and our sisters in Christ.

Surely I am more unfit than any woman and have not the understanding of a woman.

I have neither learned meekness nor have the spirit of quietness.

Who can remold a woman? Who can make her virtuous? Who can produce a submissive wife? Who has blessed many with devout mothers? What is His name and what is His Son's name, if it isn't the Most High God?

The words of our Heavenly Father are pure: He will bless His daughters with prudence, if they trust in Him.

Two things do I request of Thee, Lord; deny me them not before I die:

Grant me the desire to rise up early to pray: let not my heart be lifted up in pride; bless me with a meek and humble spirit.

Lest I be unfaithful and grieve Thy Holy Spirit, or lest I be haughty or high-minded and mock Thy Holy Name.

The world has two daughters crying, "Compromise." There are three things that are often neglected, yea, four which are almost lost arts:

A woman whose heart is full of gratitude towards God,
A lady who respects her father and husband,
A sister who doesn't expect the praise of others and
A wife who minds her own business and stays at home.

The woman who is disgraced by her behavior in Eden will seek to understand her husband (father or maybe brother) and do him only good.

There are three traits that are desirous in the King's daughters, yea, four that helps her to be all glorious within:

She is trustworthy and listens with subjection.

She is modest in all her ways and has a sober mind.

There are four things which seem little to the virtuous woman, but the rewards are far greater than she can imagine:

As a teacher, she teaches the children God's Word.

As an artist, she designs new ways of implanting the Word in their hearts.

With intercession, she prays with her children before they go to bed and in the morning when they get up.

As a servant, she denies herself many things to devote her life and love to others.

The woman who is willing to share and eateth not the bread of idleness shall be blessed abundantly, in season and out.

Kindness can be deceptive and beauty doesn't last, but a woman who fears the Lord shall be praised.

May the Lord add His blessing!

Sister Kim Spates
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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Our Christian Families

This is a generation in turmoil... politically, socially, financially, and unfortunately... even spiritually and many families are affected. Why? What is happening that is diminishing our faith in Christ and our lack of interest in living by His standards and principles? In this article, we will list some happenings and reactions of the 1990's that have created this condition to exacerbate it.

1. The influence of materialism is a great negative influence. Giving children everything they want from infancy to young adulthood is disastrous. The mentality continues to be that we would give to our children all of the things we didn't have and would love to have had as a child or young person.

2. The influence of "garbage verbiage" is a very serious problem today among young people. This is also true in adults. We hear so much bad language and cursing around us all of the time that we begin to accept it as the norm and, God forbid, embrace and use it. Too many times, when a child is very small and they pick up a bad word, parents just laugh at it. This only encourages an increase in the use of these abominations.

3. Another great problem... even in the Conservative church... is that we seem to feel we will give a child too much spiritual training and they will come to resent it or will reject it. So, we limit spiritual input into the life of the child. Again, there is the mentality in the so-called Christian world that says we will just wait until the child is twenty-one and let him decide for himself what his spiritual goal will be. This only leads to disaster in the life of the young person. Then, it is too late!

4. Another problem with our age is that it seems out of vogue to use the word "wrong." That is right... that is wrong! Of course, there is a reason for this. Public education teaches young people today that there is no right or wrong... everything is just relative! The word "wrong" certainly does not lead to a guilt complex in a child. It gives direction and shows genuine love.

5. Then, it seems popular today to let children just throw everything down in their room or around the house so Mom or Dad can pick things up for them. If parents do that, the child learns the

concept of throwing responsibility on everyone else and does not learn proper stewardship of his or her possessions. God condemns this action as well as the attitude involved. The earlier that responsibility is learned by the child, the earlier he will become responsible for all aspects of his life.

It is tragic that so many young people are raised without proper Divine standards. And just as Paul talks to Christians in II Timothy 3, so we are relating to Christians in the '90's. Families are in trouble and it comes from our not abiding by God's principles for our "separated" homes. Have you ever thought about the reasons children got into drugs and alcohol consumption who have been raised in "Christian" homes? Consider these reasons.

1. When a child is nagged for going wrong but never spanked, he becomes vulnerable because he is not being raised by God's instructions.

2. When a child is totally dependent on parents for everything and for every thought and action, he becomes vulnerable to alcohol or drugs.

3. There is the problem of overprotection from discipline.

4. The mistake of not allowing him to make decisions about many areas of his everyday life. After all, he might make mistakes, right? How do we learn if we do not make mistakes?

5. A severe factor in personality development is a mother who criticizes the father of the family openly causing the child to lose his own self respect and confidence.

6. Included in these problems is always bailing a child out of trouble and not making him responsible. If a child does not suffer the consequences of his own behavior, he is headed for trouble in later life.

7. Christian counselors agree that a role reversal in the home... where the mother dominates the husband... is one of the most serious problems of this day. Children become confused as to the role of the parents and, in turn, as to their future roles as parents.

8. Finally, there is the problem of over-doing prescription drugs and all types of nutritional pills. There is not much of an adjustment from taking these items to taking drugs that are harmful... after all, the pattern has been set.

Many children and young people are obsessive today (afraid of everything) because they have been overly protected. There is no question that we need to be in constant care and protection of our families but there is a point where we must develop confidence in children as a result of instructing them "in the way they should go." Reprove... yes! Discipline... yes! Train... yes! Trust... yes! Not to do these things is to pay severe spiritual, mental and possibly physical consequences.

What are these consequences? The wise writer of the book of Proverbs says they will include: 1. Being a grief to his mother; 2. A rebel to his father; 3. A sorrow to his father; 4. A disaster or calamity to his father; 5. A disgrace to his parents and finally, 6. a user of his parents.

We are admonished to be involved with our children and a child who is left to himself will not be well adjusted and will "bring his parents shame."

I praise God for an Instruction Book... full of wisdom and grace... filled with answers to questions about our Christian families.

Brother Len Wertz

PASS THE SALT!

Part 3

What Does Salt Do?

SEASONS: Salt enhances what's good about our food and makes something acceptable that might not have been otherwise. As Christians, we're especially gifted with the privilege of being able to bring out the best in people and things. What a blessing to look for things that glorify the Lord – and affirm them in a way that encourages them to grow. If we're salty, the way we live and the things we say should make others thirsty for the reality of God they see in our lives.

Salt is the **ONLY** common compound that dissolves easily in both hot and cold water. Jesus equipped us to minister to people who are hot or cold for God. And Jesus sets the example. One night He was reclining at the dinner table with a wide range of people – tax gatherers known for malpractice and extortion, sinners, and His disciples. The Pharisees questioned His ministry techniques, but He said, "They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick... I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." (Matthew 9:12-13) Jesus loved the lost and the found – but He didn't get the two confused.

HEALS: Some of you gargle with salt water when your throat is sore, or sit in a hot bath sprinkled with Epsom salts for aches and pains. There's something very soothing about salty water.

On the other hand, salt can sting. When we get sick and go to the doctor, pain is often part of the healing process. In order to be healed, a sin-sick person must experience the sting of truth. Someone once said, "The truth will set you free... but first it will make you miserable!" I'm sure we can all testify to the pain of realizing our own sins. Sometimes we feel worse before we feel better. But better we will be, as we walk in the reality of who we are, and who God is. Only then can we be healed.

Salt can also revive those who've fainted from their stressful journey in life. We need to pass some smelling salts under their nose and bring them back to consciousness! God wants us to wake up those lost in sin and revive His wounded warriors. Not by pouring salt in their open wounds, but by speaking the truth in a way that brings healing and hope.

PURIFIES: Salt is a purifying agent. God told Elisha to take a jar of salt to a poisoned spring of water and throw some in. Then Elisha said, "Thus saith the Lord, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land." (II Kings 2:21) When God used salt to purify the waters of Jericho it was a miracle – just like when He uses us.

Just as Elisha didn't throw his jar into the poisoned waters, we obviously can't throw buildings at the world's problems. Like Elisha, we must sprinkle out some salt. We have buildings we call "the church" that may be beautiful, but they're only containers for what's really valuable. We all know it's not the buildings, but the believer who is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Beautiful churches are fine, but it's what's inside that counts.

God could have told Elisha to walk around town throwing salt down everyone's well, but He sent him to the root of the problem – the poisoned spring. God wants to send us to the root of many problems – and use us to purify the poisoned areas of society. These "poisoned springs" need to be purified so there won't be "death or unfruitfulness any longer."

PRESERVES: Before refrigeration, salt was used as a preservative. It was rubbed into meat to keep it from spoiling – or being corrupted with bacteria. Our Christian influence works in a similar way by restraining the corruption of the world – which if left unchecked, multiplies as quickly as bacteria on a hunk of meat.

When Jesus called us "the salt of the earth" He made a strong judgement about the state of society – and a lofty claim about what His disciples can do about it. You don't salt something that's alive. You salt something that's dead to keep it from rotting. Jesus is saying that society, without His influence, is a carcass that's rotting away and disintegrating. We'll quickly say, "amen" to that, but what about this: as His disciples we're to be rubbed into that rotting mass to season it, delay decomposition, and save it from falling to pieces under its own wickedness.

May I suggest that the **REASON** we have so many problems in critical areas of society is because Christians have abandoned them and lost direct contact. We've retreated in fear of being "infected" instead of obeying God and doing our part to restrain the corruption. When God calls us anywhere we must operate with integrity, purity, honesty, and fairness. We're salt not only because we're bearers of truth, but because of the godly influence of our conduct and character.

We should conduct ourselves in a way that makes evil ashamed to show itself before us. Every person making right choices helps swing public opinion towards what is right – and every person who lowers God's standard in his own life, helps lower it in his community. Let's be uncompromising examples – helping preserve our areas of influence with godly principles. "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn." (Proverbs 29:2)

Compiled

MIRACLES OF CHRIST AS RECORDED IN GOD'S WORD

5. Healing of the Impotent Man

John 5:1-16

The healing of the impotent man carries many interesting items and thoughts. The scripture is too long to include here.

There was a feast of the Jews at Jerusalem and Jesus was there. In Jerusalem by the sheep market was a pool of water known by the name of Bethesda (Hebrew name). It had five porches.

This was the gathering place for the impotent, the halt, blind and withered. They were waiting for the movement of the waters. An angel, at certain times, went down into the pool and touched the waters, or more accurately TROUBLED the waters. The needy folk were awaiting the troubling of the water. Why? At the troubling of the waters, the first sick person to step in was healed. It mattered not the type of disease or how seriously it had progressed; the first in was healed.

Picture in your mind's eye, that scene. First, it was a great multitude. All ailing in one way or other. No doubt, the most of the infirm were carried there. Many needed help, just as the residents of nursing homes need help today. Every invalid there were expectantly, no doubt some were quite impatiently, waiting for the waters to move. When the waters moved I can visualize a great squirming on those porches. All hoping and trying to be first. Only one could be healed at each time the waters were troubled. How happy that individual must have been. **DO NOT FORGET THE DISAPPOINTED MULTITUDE.**

A certain man was there which had had an infirmity for thirty eight years. How often he came for a healing we know not. Jesus saw him and his plight. Jesus asked the man, "Wilt thou be made whole?" He told Jesus he had nobody to help him in the waters. While I am on the way, another steps down before me. Jesus said, "Arise, take up thy bed and walk." He did and He WAS healed immediately. Another example of faith. Faith is doing. It has a

great part in most of the miracles. LET EACH PRAY FOR MORE FAITH.

Brother Paul R. Myers
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SIXTY YEARS AGO

March 15, 1933

LIGHT AND DARKNESS OR CHURCH AND THE WORLD

B. F. Masterson

"And there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days; they saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days; but the children of Israel had light in their dwellings." (Exodus 10:22-23.)

Nothing effects one so much as contrast. There is much presented to us in this form. In this way we are deeply struck with the condition of our first parents, before and after the fall in the enjoyment and loss of Paradise.

Thus too, the different characters of the righteous and the wicked are more striking in Cain and Abel – one a murderer and the other a martyr. One a child of Beelzebub and the other one an heir of glory.

The contrast in Jacob and Esau – one engaged in pleasure of hunting, the other seeking the favor and blessing of God.

Sometimes this contrast was seen in a larger scale. For instance, look at the families of Noah and his sons, and the whole world – the one floating safely on the billows of the flood, which involved the others in utter ruin.

Our text leads us to consider one of these striking contrasts. The ninth plague is now afflicting the land of Egypt. Thick darkness is covering the whole land; horror is filling the minds of the Egyptians. But at this very time the children of Israel had light in their dwellings. In this, God made a miraculous and striking difference, and in this we have presented before us the contrast between the world and the church. Or perhaps, more strictly speaking, between the carnal and the renewed heart.

We want to confine ourselves to this contrast as existing between the world and the church. Egypt in its darkness was a type of the world. It was also in other particulars. In its tyrannical dominion, as well as in diversified idolatry, but in particular in the darkness which enshrouded it.

We mean by the world, all responsible beings who are living without the fear of God, and are strangers to saving grace. They may greatly differ from each other. But those who constitute what in

scripture is signified by the world, resemble each other in this – they are under the dominion of Satan and not the servants of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now each such individual is a child of the world, and the whole in their collective capacity are in darkness.

Darkness is an emblem of ignorance and error, and the world is involved in these; wise as it regards literature and science; but with respect to God, their souls' salvation and the religion of Jesus Christ, they are in darkness. Paul says, "God hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son." (Col. 1:13) "He that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth." Their understanding is blind and their judgments perverted.

Darkness is an emblem of guilt, and the world is involved in this. Sin is the work of darkness, and the whole world is guilty before God. "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." (John 3:19)

Darkness is the emblem of misery, and in this the world is involved. The misery of the people of the world arises from three things: from the accusation of guilt, the cause of their condemnation as a fever, it burns up their spirit, and this feeling they cannot extinguish.

Second, from the unsatisfying of their portion. They want happiness, but cannot find it. Their seeking and striving is like drinking ocean water – it adds to their thirst, or sinks into wretchedness as the prodigal, and have not even husks to eat.

Third, from the gloomy fears as to the future. Bad as the portion of the world is, it is their best; it is their good things, but it cannot be retained. Things that are seen are temporal, age advances, death intervenes, the grave opens and then there is the unknown, the judgment, eternity, and they have no light, no hope. Is this not enough to account for the misery of the sinner.

The Israelites, with light in their dwellings, were a type of the church. Who constitute the church? The spiritual seed of Abraham. Those who are born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. Separated from the world and spiritual followers of the master, they are in the world as Israel was in Egypt. But they are distinct and separate from it. They are the light of saving knowledge. They may be far inferior to the world in rank, wealth and learning, but they possess the true knowledge of God and His son. Paul counted all things, but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus. (Phil. 3.8) They know Him as the true Messiah. They know him experimentally, in His power to save. "One thing I know, that whereas I was blind, now I see." Once they were in darkness, now they are in the light; delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son. They have light of the divine approbation.

How glorious to have the assurance that we are in a saved condition; to know that we are born of God and know His voice; to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge! "Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Rom. 5:1) They wear the robe of white, washed in His blood. "The path of the just is as shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. "The way of the wicked is as darkness, they know not at what they stumble." (Prov. 4:18-19).

They have the light of a joyful hope, "Christ in you, the hope of glory." Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

They have the light of divine presence, "Lo, I am with you unto the end." He is their sun and their day. He guides by His glorious presence through the whole pilgrimage of life. He was the light of Abraham, Jacob and Israel. Thus by His spirit He leads His people into all truth and conducts them into eternal glory.

Note: The outline of the above article I borrowed – the clothing is original.

NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING GAINED

WE MUST ACT. Those who demand a sure thing will never BEGIN, much less finish, any worthwhile work.

"How's your cotton?" a visitor asked an old farmer.

"Didn't plant no cotton; 'fraid of the boll weevil."

"How are your potatoes?"

"Didn't plant any 'fraid of the tater bugs."

"What did you plant?"

"Didn't plant nothin' – just playin' it safe."

He took no risks. He harvested no crop.

Solomon said, "He who observes the wind will not sow; and he who regards the clouds will not reap."

There are dangers in every venture. Many of life's conditions are beyond our control. Don't kill all effort by waiting for ideal conditions which will never come.

God doesn't promise blessings to those who will walk the road only when it is perfectly smooth and sheltered, nor does He grant triumphs if we give up at the first sight of difficulty. Don't lay down your tools and run for cover just because the clouds have gathered.

Controllable circumstances are in our hands. Uncontrollable circumstances are in God's hands. His hands are stronger than ours.

Caution is one thing; faithfulness is quite another. With God nothing is too good to be true.

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DECEPTION AND CONFUSION

Deuteronomy 11:16, "Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them."

Psalms 71:1, "In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion."

Jeremiah 49:16, "Thy terribleness hath deceived thee, and the pride of thine heart, O thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, that holdest the height of the hill: though thou shouldest make thy nest as high as the eagle, I will bring thee down from thence, saith the LORD."

Ephesians 5:6, "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."

Basically, deception comes from without the local body of Christ while confusion comes from within. These two tools are perhaps the greatest weapon Satan has to use against the Church. Satan has deceived individuals within the body of Christ many times by allowing them to serve "other gods" while believing they are within the will of God.

Satan has brought confusion within the body of Christ within recent years by allowing three separate issues to be "rolled into one ball of wax." We hear a great deal about the issues of different races and colors, women in places of leadership and homosexuals and lesbians. First of all race and color of skin should have no place of distinction within the body of Christ. Secondly, God has put woman in a high place of respect. When she ignores the Word of God and desires leadership over a man she loses the beautiful gift God has given her. As for homosexuals and lesbians, the Word of God makes it very clear that they are sinners in need of salvation and cannot enter into the Kingdom of God without repentance and turning from their sinful "lifestyle."

But we believe the greatest deception Satan has fostered on the earthly church is described in Jeremiah 49:16 "Thy terribleness has deceived thee, and the pride of thine heart,..." The word "terribleness" in the Hebrew is "tiphetseth" and could be translated "terrible fearfulness." We have allowed fear to deceive us and this has brought confusion to the true body of Christ. Our greatest fear is what others will think about us. It is right and good to be concerned about how the world views our conduct, but when we fear that the world (and "worldly christians") will consider us too holy we have come to the point of confusion! The fear of what others may think of us has made the Bible doctrine of nonconformity something just short of a big joke. The idea that nonconformity is merely an issue of our attitude rather than an outward demonstration is becoming popular in "conservative" Christian circles.

It would be nothing less than foolishness to suggest that everyone must look like our Anabaptist forefathers in order to be a Christian. Over the years even the most conservative have changed some. We have found from our study of church history that at one time in our history brown was the color most acceptable for clothing. This has been replaced by black or grey as being the most popular. But to suggest that clothing has nothing to do with our walk with the Lord is complete confusion. Satan has deceived the earthly church into believing that God will accept that which He has condemned in His Holy Word. While we do not believe our plain dress is a part of our salvation, to lay it aside will give Satan the opening he desires to lead us into disobedience.

Satan has also deceived us in the area of "the pride of thine heart." We are too proud to admit that we may be wrong on a certain issue. We are too proud to ask for or offer forgiveness to a brother or sister whom we have wronged or who has wronged us. We, who are to dwell in the cleft of the Rock, the Lord Jesus Christ, have built our own clefts of the rock with our self-righteousness. We are quick to see the weakness of a brother or sister but fail to recognize our own. While we are to give glory to our high and holy God, we hold the height of the hill by "singing our own praises." We can make our nest as high as the eagle and get the smug feeling that we are in a place where we no longer need any help, even from God! The bank account holds an amount of money that will last for years. The house is paid for and maybe we own several more besides. We drive a fairly new vehicle and have one or two for spares. There is nothing wrong with any of these things as long as they do not cause us to take our eyes off God.

"Let no man deceive you with vain words." Be leery of those who say that we must follow Christ and not church doctrines. This is a half truth that has led many down the road to disobedience. You may think you can enjoy the things of this world and still be within the will of God. But remember, "because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."

Last of all, Satan has deceived many into believing they can be saved without the blood of Christ. This has caused confusion among many. You must be saved God's way, not your own. His Word also instructs that we be baptized by trine immersion.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

WHAT DIRECTION

What direction are you moving?
Up or down, or side to side?
There is no standing still in life;
Are you moving with the tide?

Or is your direction "downstream" –
That's the easy way, by far.
Are you "flow" with the worldly crowd,
The Lord knows just where you are.

If you're living for Christ each day,
And you're on that narrow path,
Don't let Satan make you detour.
If you do, you'll face God's wrath.

If the direction that you're taking
Is up and onward each day,
Then you'll show the love of Jesus
And thrust self out of the way.

You must overcome all evil
When you walk in Jesus' light,
Follow the examples He set,
Then you'll find that way is right!

- Irene Stout

NEWS ITEMS

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Pleasant Home Congregation will host the 1993 Fourth District Meeting and Lovefeast, April 9-11, 1993, the Lord Willing.

The first service will be held, Friday, April 9 at 7:30 P.M. Services will be held throughout Saturday, including the Business Meeting at 10:00 A.M. and the Lovefeast at 6:00 P.M. There will be full day of services on Easter Sunday.

Come and enjoy these times of worship, remembrance and fellowship with us.

Sister Edith Moss, Cor.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Church announces a Spring Revival, April 18 through 25. Our evangelist will be Elder Eugene Kauffman of Broadway, Virginia.

Lovefeast services will be held Saturday, April 24th at 2:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. Other evening services will begin at 7:30 P.M.

If you can, come and worship with us! Pray for a Revival at Plevna.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

QUINTER, KANSAS

Lord willing, the Quinter Congregation is planning to host the District Meeting of the Third District. There will be a preaching service Friday, April 9, with the usual services on Saturday and Sunday. The business meeting will be Monday, April 12.

We welcome all to come and fellowship with us, that we may be strengthened in these perilous times.

Sister Rhonda Snyder, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 1993

April 4 - Calling the Twelve - Matthew 10:1-15.

1. What type of men did Jesus choose as apostles?
2. What was the message they were to share with the Jews?

April 11 - THE RESURRECTION - Matthew 28:1-20.

1. How is the Resurrection important to us?
2. How are we to use our Resurrection power?

April 18 - The Disciples Mission - Matthew 10:16-42.

1. What was the disciples' mission?
2. What is our life mission?

April 25 - John the Baptist in Prison - Matthew 11:1-19.

1. Why was John confused about Christ?
2. How did Jesus answer John's question?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 1993

April 4 - Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem - Matt. 21:1-13,
Mark 11:1-15.

1. How was Christ's entry triumphant?
2. Why did some receive Christ while others rejected Him?

April 11 - Easter Lesson - Matt. 28:1-8, Mark 16:9-14, Luke 24:36-37.

1. Why did the Jews reject the Resurrection?
2. How does the Resurrection affect you?

April 18 - Outward Adorning - I Peter 3:3-4 and 12-13.

1. What adornment pleases Christ?
2. What should be the goal in all of our choices? Col. 3:17.

April 25 - A surrendered Life - Romans 12:1-21.

1. What is a living sacrifice?
2. What does Paul say should be our motive for surrender?

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(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXI

APRIL 1, 1993

NO. 7

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
-------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HIS RESURRECTION AND GLORY

"Christ, the Lord, is ris'n today,"
Sons of men and angels say:
Raise your joys and triumphs high,
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth reply,
Love's redeeming work is done,
Fought the flight, the battle won;
Lo! the sun's eclipse is o'er,
Lo! he sets in blood no more.

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal,
Christ has burst the gate of hell;
Death in vain forbids his rise,
Christ hath open'd Paradise.

Lives again our glorious King!
"Where, O Death, is now thy sting?"
Once he died our souls to save:
"Where's thy vict'ry, boasting Grave?"

Hail, the Lord of earth and heav'n!
Praise to thee by both be giv'n!
Thee we greet triumphant now,
Hail! the Resurrection – Thou!

- Charles Wesley

THE CROSS, THE RESURRECTION, AND YOU.

At Easter we think of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Often it is but a passing interest that is eroded by the many other situations and challenges of life. We spend a few days thinking about the events of those days, but they seem to have little lasting effect upon us. We can tell the story of His passion and resurrection long ago, but what does it mean to us as we meet the situations of our everyday lives?

We all know that the crucifixion and resurrection play a great part in our souls' salvation. We know that if Jesus had not been willing to offer Himself as the sacrifice for our sins, we would have been doomed to eternal destruction. Without a perfect sacrificial Lamb, there could have been no plan of salvation to be delivered to mankind. Jesus was willing to drink that horrible cup of suffering, because He came to do His Father's will. His Father, in His Grace and Mercy, willed that the sacrifice be made, so we could be a part of His Family. God wanted a large Family. He was not content with just one begotten Son; He wanted numerous adoptive children. But His intent went beyond the bringing of children into His Family; He wanted children who would apply the lessons of His grace and mercy to their own lives.

"... even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32b. There was only one perfect sacrifice for our sins, Jesus Christ, God's Son. His Son gave Himself as the propitiation for our sins. God's recognition of that gift is shown by the resurrection. If God had not accepted Jesus' complete and effective sacrifice, there would have been no resurrection. There was a resurrection so we know that God did approve of that gift.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

April 1, 1993

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Potentially that gift was given for all mankind in all the ages since, but it has only been effective for those who have accepted it. There is a needed action within the heart which produces the faith that will accept what was done on the cross. It includes an assent to the fact of our sinfulness, thus realizing that we need a saviour. We need to realize that our past life of sin has been not only contrary to our fellow humans, but also toward God. As such, we must decide that we are going to forsake those sins and not be found doing them or others. There is a need of physical action in going down into the baptismal stream, where the old man can be buried in the likeness of Christ's death. The last action needed is allowing the Holy Spirit to make His dwelling place within our bodies. From that vantage point He can direct us in the ways we should go, if we are of a mind to listen to Him. We need to apply God's will to our lives and allow our lives to produce the Spiritual fruit that is pleasing to Him.

As He has forgiven us, so we should extend the same forgiveness to those we deal with. Even as Christians we are prone to accept the attitudes and ideals of the world around us. Our minds, if not feeding upon the Word of God, fellowship, praise and good deeds, can be contaminated by the thinking of the surrounding world. Because we are so much at home in this world, we are even more prone than we might have been in past ages. The conditions surrounding us have become less moral and less favorable to righteousness than during past times. As this country and the whole world grows more and more foreign to Christianity, the greater the possibility of demon possession and other gross immorality. As these conditions prevail, there is a greater opportunity that we will allow ourselves to be influenced by them. As our minds receive these messages from the world, our actions will become more like the world's. Paul draws many contrasts between the conduct and thinking of the world and the Christian in Ephesians 4:17-32. For every act and thought that is ungodly, there is an opposite action and thought that would please God. The Christian's conduct must be in line with what God has done for him. He has forgiven him of ungodly acts and thoughts done in the past. He must not go back to the old life of uncleanness, greed, anger, maliciousness, theft, corrupt communication or any other thing that is identified with the world's thinking or activities.

The Christian is forgiven, in turn, he must be willing to show a forgiving nature toward others. He realizes that he is not perfect, so should not require or expect perfection from others. Therefore he needs to put away the bitterness, wrath and anger that are a major part of the world's expression. His example needs to be one that far exceeds the usual fare of this world. His whole outlook on life should be far different than that of the world and his reaction to others needs to be very different.

Christian, You have been forgiven. How are you translating the Cross and the Resurrection through your life? Is it a life that has the mark of God's approval or does it still have the stamp of the world's ways?

TELL ME WHERE THOU HAST LAID HIM

John 20:15, "Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away."

Mary's question, "Tell me where thou hast laid him," is a question that needs to be answered today in a slightly different context. Many have laid Jesus Christ in a tomb of their own understanding.

There are those who have laid Him in "the tomb of mythology." Along with the Easter bunny, Jesus Christ is considered to be nothing more than a myth dreamed up in the mind of a man. Although secular history is replete with information concerning the person of Jesus Christ, such overwhelming evidence is completely ignored.

Others have laid Him in "the tomb of liberal theology." These individuals recognize that Jesus Christ was a literal person but they refuse to acknowledge that He was God the Son. They recognize Him as a great man who taught good, along with the founders of other religions of the world.

Some have laid Him in a "tomb of a lesser god." They deny the reality of the Holy Trinity and teach that Jesus Christ was the first created being. They refuse to give Him the worship demanded by Holy Scripture.

Many have laid Him in "the tomb of the unknown god." They claim to believe who He is but are hard pressed to give a definite description of their belief. Their church tradition provides them with answers in place of the Holy Scriptures.

Then there are those who have laid Him in "the tomb of Savior only." Many of these put great emphasis on attending church at least three times a week but fail to recognize the need to make Jesus Christ Lord of their lives seven days a week. They falsely teach that He can be Savior without being Lord. They correctly teach that the blood of Jesus Christ is needed for salvation but fail to recognize the Scriptural command for obedience.

Those who have laid the Lord Jesus Christ in "the tomb of mythology" do not have to deal with His resurrection. Since they do not believe that He even existed, the resurrection becomes just part of the myth.

The ones who have laid Jesus Christ in "the tomb of liberal theology" have various explanations for His "resurrection." One of the most popular is that He did not actually die but only swooned on the cross and was later resuscitated in the cool of the tomb. There is so much evidence to the contrary that it is hard to believe that anyone would accept this explanation. However, if you doubt Holy Scripture it would not be hard to doubt the reality of the liberal death of Jesus Christ. Of course if this would be true, He would have died a natural death sometime in the future. For them "resurrection" merely means that His truth that He taught lives on in the hearts and minds of His followers.

Those who have laid Jesus Christ in "the tomb of a lesser god" teach that He came forth as a spirit being. Jesus Christ, Himself, refuted this false teaching. In Luke 24:39 he said, "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have."

The ones who have laid Him in "the tomb of the unknown god" teach a literal resurrection but deny the power of the resurrection. They would have you share His power and glory with another individual. They symbolically crucify and resurrect the Lord over and over again. They falsely teach that we cannot go directly to our high Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, for forgiveness of sin.

The individuals who have laid Him in "the tomb of Savior only" also recognize a literal resurrection. But, unlike Mary, who "came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord," they will tell you that only the Savior came forth from the tomb and must be allowed to be Lord of your life in a time of growth.

Praise God for those who, like Mary Magdalene, have heard Him "call their name" and have responded with "yes, Lord." Have you heard His voice asking, "Why weepest thou? whom seekest thou?" We have His promise in Luke 11:9, "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." We have His sweet words of "Peace be unto you." We have that peace that passeth all understanding. The peace of knowing our sins are forgiven. We have "heard" Him say, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." We have the Holy Spirit living within to lead each day of our lives. We are they of which He has said, "blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

We are they who have laid the Lord Jesus Christ, literally dead, in a tomb and saw Him come forth to life in a literal body through the eyes of faith. Like Thomas we can say, "My Lord and my God." Someday we will see Him face to face and know in reality what we now experience by faith. Hallelujah! HE IS RISEN!

Brother James M. Hite
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Palmyra, PA 17078

PASS THE SALT!

Part 4

The Enemy's Tactics

For years, the enemy has had a very simple and effective strategy. He's told Christians, "You can do anything you want, as long as you stay in the Church." That conveniently leaves the rest of the world to him. Also, in recent years, some areas of society have come to be considered "off limits" for Christians. Somewhere along the way we've come to believe that our involvement will tempt us beyond our ability to stick with God – or His ability to keep us.

The following are some critical areas of society in advanced stages of decay: Education, Business, Government, Arts and Media, Science, and the Family. These areas play a major part in influencing the thoughts and attitudes of society – which is exactly why the devil wants them for himself. The enemy, and those playing into his hands, have made some of us afraid to serve God in some of these areas – fearing that if we have anything to do with them we'll almost automatically fall prey to greed, power, lust, secular humanism, pride, or immorality. Obviously, those temptations are real, but we'll face them and more, no matter where we are.

Life on earth is a battle against the world, the flesh, and the devil. Even being in Christian service, or the ministry, is no guarantee against falling into sin. The only thing keeping us is our relationship with God. God is faithful and "will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (I Cor. 10:13) Being in God's will, and seeking Him continually will give us the strength to obey Him – and to flee temptation by the way of escape He ALWAYS provides.

We must fear the Lord – but resist the enemy. That means we must resist the enemy's fear, as well. God has given us gifts to use for His glory and the good of mankind. Living in ungodly fear may cause us to make wrong choices which will deeply affect, and often alter, our dreams, our goals, our ministry, and maybe even our destiny.

A Little Is A Lot

We see in Biblical history how over and over again, God used one choice grain of Holy Salt to make a difference. Esther preserved a whole nation of people through her obedience to God and teamwork with Mordecai. Moses stood in the gap and interceded for God's rebellious children and God didn't destroy them. And the lives of two hundred and seventy-six people on a ship were spared because of one of God's obedient servants, our brother Paul.

The world around us is in desperate need because their answers aren't working. But God has an answer for every possible situation. And His answers work! Admittedly, there are some whose hearts are so hard they'd reject anything having to do with godly principles. Pharaoh is a prime example. However, most people will respond to God's wisdom when it's presented in a way they can receive and understand.

We have many opportunities to bring God's truth into every level of society – even a few grains make a difference. A little salt makes a whole glass of water salty. We're told a large measure of faith is as big as a mustard seed. And let's not forget the widow's mite. What we have to give may not look like a lot to us, but only God can measure the eternal significance of our obedience. A little can mean a lot in God's kingdom.

Salty Ambassadors

To be the salt of the earth we must first view ourselves as representatives of the Lord wherever we are. We're told in II Corinthians 5:20 that we are Ambassadors For Christ. Ambassadors are sent to foreign nations and have the authority to represent the interests of their government, or king, to that foreign land. They do not change citizenship while they're there, but remain citizens of the nation that sent them. Their presence in that country creates a greater understanding between the two nations. As we represent God's principles and character in all areas of society, we need to stay loyal to the One who sent us. If we don't, we lose our authority. Many of us who call ourselves Christians are more influenced by the world than it is by us. We need to stay red hot for God as we attempt to change a world that's frozen in sin. If we don't heat up the world, it will cool us down, and the enemy will continue to gain ground in dangerous proportions.

NOBODY KNOWS ME LIKE YOU, LORD

From the beginning I never knew;
Just how much I really needed, You!
More than a friend; someone I can talk to
And change me in so many ways.

CHORUS:

Nobody knows me like you, Lord.
You put your arms around me; You bring me through.
There's many times I don't know what to do –
Though some know me well, still nobody knows me like You!

All of my secrets to You I tell.
You know each time that I slipped and fell.
And all of my thoughts, you know them well...
But You've never turned me away.

Walking in Your presence is the way I want to be
You said in Your Word, You said that You would love me.
Yes, I love You; oh, I really love You.
I'll go anywhere as long as I know You'll be there.

All of those nights I was afraid.
I stood on the promises You gave me.
The way that I ask – sometimes I understand...
But, You've never turned me away!

Compiled

LAUNCH OUT

Luke 5:4-6, "Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake."

All of us have certain pre-conceived notions regarding Christianity. People in Jesus' time also had pre-conceived notions regarding religion. Prejudice is a better word for it. When Jesus began to preach the comment circulating was: "Has anything good ever come out of Nazareth?" We have seen attacks leveled at blacks, Puerto Ricans, and Polish folks. Prejudice is a natural thing, but that does not make it right. In religious matters we as a people have side-stepped certain issues and certain groups of people. One plain preacher I know never makes house-to-house invitations for Revival meetings because he may attract certain people that he will not know how to deal with. What would we do if a couple would come to meeting and want to be saved, and both had been divorced in the past? What would we do if a black family would show up? The possibilities are endless.

Simon, in our scripture lesson, probably had fished Gennesaret for about thirty years. He knew where the fish were and when the best time was for fishing. When Jesus said, "Launch out!" Simon only listened out of respect, never thinking that he would catch anything. He figured Jesus, being a carpenter, wouldn't know much about fishing. But Jesus' actions had a further reaching impact than just being a fish story. This was to be a lesson for us also, today, and not necessarily about fishing. For, you see, our business is to

catch men. All we need do is apply this story to the cause of salvation, and it will open up to our understanding. Many of us have been in the Church for many years and have been the route of revival meetings, prayer meetings, and regular Sunday services hundreds, perhaps thousands of times. What we do, I believe, is right and honorable in the sight of God. Our services are conducted properly according to scripture, yet we see very few fishes. Jesus wants us to launch out into the deep: to fish a different part of the lake at a different part of the day. Maybe we can use a different method of inviting people to our services. Maybe we can fast more, or pray more, or sacrifice so that someone will hear the gospel and be saved. How much do we love fishing for men? Do we continue to fish for men even though we have fished all night and have caught nothing? Are we willing to fish for men even though we are ourselves cold and hungry and tired? We are grateful unto our Blessed Lord for three young sisters that came to Jesus a couple of years ago. They entered the Kingdom as a result of many prayers and tears that have ascended to the Throne for many years, but what sparked this wonderful event was a terrible one, the beginning of the Gulf War. We do not know what event or circumstance will point a soul toward God, so we must do as Simon and LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP. And what is the deep? It is the unknown. It is unsafe, uncharted territory. With GOD'S HELP we can go into this unknown region and CATCH MEN. By God's grace we can find those who need Jesus. Do not be afraid to launch out.

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MIRACLES OF CHRIST AS RECORDED IN GOD'S WORD

6. Heals a Demoniac

Matthew 9:32-33

It seems that Jesus was in great demand to heal. While many followed for the loaves and the fishes, multitudes followed to be healed of their infirmities.

This chapter records a number of healings Jesus performed at the request of the sick and afflicted. He was able to heal all manner of sickness and disease. He turned none away. When the crowd began to leave and go to their respective places of abode, they spread the news of His fame in all that country.

When the people had about all left, some one noticed a dumb man possessed with a devil. He was mute. He lacked the power of speech. He was also possessed with a devil. So, as in other cases

of having a devil, the devil had control over him. It is a pathetic thing to see human beings in such a pitiful state. Jesus cast out the devil and restored the man's speech.

Nearly always, when Jesus performed His miracles, there was a multitude of people about. Part of the group had dispersed, but the multitudes that remained marvelled at what took place.

As when many good deeds are done among men today, there are always the fault finders. Jesus had to contend with such here. We read in verse 34, but the Pharisees said, that he casteth out devils through the prince of devils, which was not true.

Their finding fault did not hinder Jesus in any way. We read in verse 35, "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people."

JESUS IS A GREAT BENEFACTOR OF MANKIND, AND IS THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD. HOW THANKFUL WE SHOULD BE TO HIM.

Brother Paul R. Myers
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SIXTY YEARS AGO

April 1, 1933

DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

Ida M. Helm

The primeval marriage law. "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh." (Gen. 2:24.)

God united in holy wedlock the first pair. Adam said, "This is bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh." The human pair differed from all other pairs, that by the peculiar formation of Eve, they were one.

The Pharisees came to Jesus with the question, "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?" Jesus sited them back to the beginning to the primeval marriage law, the original constitution of man as one pair, a male and a female, and said, "For this cause shall a man leave father and mother and shall cleave unto his wife, and they twain shall be one flesh, wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh." And in strong emphatic words he said, "What therefore God has joined together let not man put asunder." (Matt. 19:5-6.)

God hath joined them together, they are one flesh and shall be as long as both are in the flesh. Man is forbidden to interfere in the

enactment of God, no act no matter how degrading or dishonoring it may be, no power on earth, can put them asunder. The Pharisees understood Christ's teaching, he had set divorce aside and that did not suit them.

Divorce and remarriage.

The Pharisees said to Jesus, "Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?" (Matt. 19:7) Jesus answered them, "Moses because of the hardness of your heart suffered you to put away your wives, but from the beginning it was not so." Marriage is both civil and a divine institution. NO matter what the human aspect may be, the divine aspect remains as God fixed it. It was not God, it was Moses a civil lawgiver, that gave them permission to divorce their wives and remarry. It was in a crude age and because of the hardness of their hearts, their inability to endure the strictness of the law, Moses suffered divorce. God suffers many things that he does not approve.

Listen to Jesus words, "And I say unto you, whosoever putteth away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery and whosoever marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery." (Matt. 19:9)

Elder T. J. Rosenberg in his exegesis on divorce and remarriage has explained this verse so clearly that I give his explanation here. "Except it be for fornication," is a parenthetical clause. An important question is, to which does it refer, to the putting away that goes before or the marrying again that follows? To say it refers to or modifies both is bad syntax and is a violation of the law of language. Webster says a parenthesis modifies the leading clause. The leading clause here is the putting away that goes before. That is the question raised by the Pharisees. It is the question he answered. Hence the clause, "except it be for fornication," modify the putting away; it defines and names what a man may put away his wife for. This is an intelligent answer to the question of the Pharisees.

The Pharisees were silenced and the disciples asked Him again of this matter. Did you say what matters? It is plain that it was the matter of putting away and marrying another person. Jesus speaks in strong plain words, whosoever shall put away his wife and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband and be married to another, she committeth adultery." (Mark 10:11-12.)

So we see that anyone who marries a divorced person committeth adultery, because the marriage contract is for life; and to marry a divorced person is to marry some other person's husband or wife. In Romans 7:23 Paul says, "For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man." Here Paul who understood the subject so well, declares that only death can

annul the marriage vow, and that to marry a divorced person is to live in adultery.

Putting away. "Whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery." (Matt. 5:32.)

Permission is given for putting away for the one cause, but divorce is not implied. In I Cor. 15:16 Paul says, "Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I take the members of Christ and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? Know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body, for two saith He, shall be one flesh." "But he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body." God hates sin and he allows the putting away because of the sin.

In I Cor. 7:11 Paul says in giving the permission, "But if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband." If there should be a subsequent marriage of either the husband or wife the door of reconciliation is practically closed if the offending party should repent.

Forgiveness. The Lord pointed out the sins of unfaithful Israel, joined to Him in spiritual marriage. He said, "I swear unto thee, and entered into covenant with thee, saith the Lord God, and thou becamest mine." (Ezekiel 16:8.) "How weak is thine heart, saith the Lord God, seeing thou doest all these things, the work of an imperious, whorish woman. In that thou buildest thine eminent place in the head of every way, and maketh thine high place in every street; and hath not been as an harlot, in that thou scornest hire, but as a wife that committeth adultery, which takes strangers instead of her husband." (Ezek. 16:30-32.) "Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord, thy Lord, thy God for I am married to you. Turn O backsliding children, saith the Lord, and I will bring you to Zion." (Jer. 3:13-14.)

When we pray the Lord's prayer we say, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." Jesus says, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Matt. 6:14-15.)

Divorce and remarriage effectually close the door of forgiveness and conciliation.

Francis Greenwood Peabody, Professor of Christian Morals at Harvard University, has this to say on the question of divorce and remarriage, "Modern learning, using the language of research, says the family is the unit of civilization. Jesus using the language of Hebrew scripture says, "The twain shall become one flesh... what therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." (Matt. 19:5-6.) Unwelcome as the teaching of Jesus may be to many modern minds, in the passage which presents its most formal statement, the teaching of Jesus begins, as it so often does, with a text from the Hebrew scriptures, which scriptures, as he had solemnly

told his people, he had come not to destroy, but to fulfill. He which made them, says Jesus, quoting from the book of Genesis, "... made them male and female,... and the train shall become one flesh." (Matt. 19:4-5.) The unity thus formed, Jesus goes on to say, in answer to those who were tempting Him is absolute.

The Pharisees said, "This is a harder doctrine than that of Moses," and Jesus admits that this is so. "You," He says, "live by the law of Deuteronomy, but even in your own tradition there is the older law of Genesis. Moses... suffered you to put away your wives; but from the beginning it hath not been so." (Matt. 19:8.) Persons on entering Christian marriage as in becoming parents after marriage are undertaking a responsibility from which they may not look to escape.

The son, however prodigal, still belongs to the father; and the husband, though in a far country of permanent separation, still belongs to the wife. The Christian law is not primarily designed to make allowance for social failures, but to establish the principles of the kingdom of God.

Professor Peabody also says, "It was a time when in Rome the domestic integrity, which had been the foundation of the state was corrupted by ostentation and extravagance, a time when in Judea the teaching of scripture was being earnestly interpreted so as to permit the very license which they were intended to forbid. Thus the teaching of Jesus, while true to the better tradition of both countries, was too uncompromising for the self-indulgent aristocracy of Rome and too unmistakable for the subtle theologians of Jerusalem. Indeed, it was the more an offense to both because both were forced to recognize that it was the ideal from which they had fallen away.

With something of the same searching of hearts, the teaching of Jesus still meets both self-indulgent desire and theological ingenuity. "What therefore God hath joined together let not man put asunder." Every soft hearted evasion of His legislation by those who professed to be His ministers is confronted by His undisguised language, "Whosoever shall put away his wife... and shall marry another committeth adultery."

OBITUARY

LULA TAYLOR

Sister Lula Estella (See) O'Brien Taylor, 96, of Dawn View Home, Fort Ashby, West Virginia was born January 1, 1896 in Moorsfield, West Virginia. She departed this life September 15, 1992.

She was the daughter of the late Nathaniel and Cory (Stickly) See. Sister Taylor was preceded in death by her first husband, Joseph Scott O'Brien, and her second husband, Elder William Addison Taylor. She was a member of Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church.

She is survived by two sons, Arthur O'Brien, Ridgeley, West Virginia and Melvin O'Brien, Fort Ashby, West Virginia; four daughters, Ida Pyles, Oakland, Maryland; Edna Kimble, Ada Fisher and Loretta Evans, Ridgeley, West Virginia; one sister, Vernie Arnold, Cumberland, Maryland; twenty grandchildren, twenty-seven great grandchildren and ten great-great grandchildren.

Services were conducted at the George Upchurch Funeral Home by the Rev. Florice Fanslee. Burial in Abe Cemetery.

We will just say goodbye here and good morning over there.

NEWS ITEMS

NOTICE

The correct zip code for Elder Rudy Shaffer is 17545. Please change in February 1, 1993 issue. This is especially important for those sending financial reports to be audited.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Bethel congregation will have Revival Services, April 11 through April 18, with Bro. Mark Andrews as evangelist. You are invited to attend and worship the Lord with us.

Sister Grace Reed, Cor.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Lord willing, the Grandview, Missouri Congregation will have their Spring Lovefeast, April 24 and 25. Services will begin Saturday at 11:00 A.M. with Lovefeast that evening at 6:00 P.M.

We invite all who can to come worship with us, and enjoy a weekend of fellowship.

Sister Sandy Meyers, Cor.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Waynesboro Congregation will have their Lovefeast Services on May 2, 1993. Plan now to spend the day with us in worship and fellowship.

Sister Janet Shaffer, Cor.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

Looking back on the past year brings memories of the Holy Spirit's moving among the body. Although we sadly miss the two elderly sisters who passed away from this life, we rejoice for the addition to our number.

Ken and Karen Johnson and their son William were baptized in July, and their family has been a real blessing to our congregation. After an inspiring series of revival messages by Brother Jason Reed, six young people were baptized on Sunday morning in a touching riverside scene.

We were thankful for the visit of Sister Grace Reed, Jeron and Lorah at that time. Showers of blessings have continued in a physical way, with the coming of rain during the winter months, to end a six-year drought.

"WILL YOUR ANCHOR HOLD IN THE STORMS OF LIFE?" We are challenged daily with the needs of the world around us, in addition to the hurts and problems of Brothers and Sisters. Our hope is only, always, in God the loving Father, the death and resurrection of Christ our Lord, and the leading of the Holy Spirit in all we do and say.

With love in Him,
Sister Edith Moss, Cor.

THANK YOU

To all the Brethren and Sisters over the Brotherhood who sent us cards for our 80th birthdays and 47th anniversary. We sincerely thank each one. May God richly bless you.

Sis. Lola is now in a Nursing Home. Continue to remember us in your prayers during this time of adjustments.

Brother John and Sister Lola Ruschhaupt

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXI

APRIL 15, 1993

NO. 8

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
-------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE CHRISTIAN RACE

Awake, my soul; stretch ev'ry nerve,
And press with vigor on;
A heav'nly race demands thy zeal,
And an immortal crown.

A cloud of witnesses around
Hold thee in full survey;
Forget the steps already trod,
And onward urge thy way.

'Tis God's all-animating voice
That calls thee from on high;
'Tis his own hand presents the prize
To thine uplifted eye; -

That prize, with peerless glories bright,
Which shall new lustre boast,
When victors' wreaths and monarchs' gems
Shall blend in common dust.

- Philip Doddridge

MAN'S DUTY

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Ecclesiastes 12:13.

We all have various duties in this life. It depends upon our individual situations what our particular duties are. In the home, there are certain duties that belong to the father, the mother and each of the children. At work, certain duties are bestowed upon the supervisor, while others belong to the employees. In government, there are specific duties given to each level of officials, whether elected or appointed. In the Church, the deacons are given certain responsibilities, while the ministers and Elders have others. The teachers, trustees, treasurers, choiristers and janitors have their duties, also.

Although each situation in life brings with it certain duties, there is no duty as great as the duty each owes to God. The wise man looked at the various philosophies and activities of life. When he had finished studying the various possibilities for direction in his life, he came to his conclusion. Although many adhered to these philosophies, he saw the weaknesses of these systems of thought and life. He realized, after looking at all these plans, that the only plan that would prove eternally satisfying was God's plan. He found out in the long ago past what people continue to find out today that man's ultimate duty is to fear God and to keep his commandments.

God wants people who will diligently seek out the way established in His Word. He wants His people to know and understand what and why they believe. He wants workmen who are diligent in

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their dividing of the Word of God. He does not want those who study only to find contradictions and unresolved mysteries and seek ways of discrediting the Bible. He wants those who will truly study His Word so they can more fully know what His will is for their lives and how they can best apply it.

The fear of the Lord is an awe that is due Him as the omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent God. Awe is not being scared of God, but is worshipping Him. God is worthy of our reverence. Unfortunately God's name is more often spoken profanely than in reverence. Instead of being in awe of our Heavenly Father many today either shake their fists in God's face or else try to ignore Him.

This lack of awe is noticeable even in the Church. The Church often ignores what God has revealed as His will. She becomes so interested in attracting those of the world into her membership that she adapts herself to the world's ways. Instead, she should be upholding a standard that is far above what the world can reach. She has lost her attraction by becoming like the world. Why would anyone seek for her, when she so resembles the world? She has allowed herself to be damaged and diminished.

The Church is not different from the world just for the sake of being different. She is different because she serves the God of Heaven instead of the gods of this world. She is seeking a different destination than those of the world. To be effective she must appear and be different than the world that surrounds her. The line of separation may at times be a very thin one, but it must be there. If there is no separation, than the Church is being more affected by the world than she is affecting the world.

God is seeking people who are willing to seek Him and His will. He understands the frame of man and the situation of each one. He does not require any more of a person than that person is capable of doing. Some have physical, mental and emotional limitations, God understands these limits. He is looking for those who have a great desire to do His will, even though prevented by the limitations. Whatever our situation, God will not accept our limitations as an excuse for not doing what we know and are able to do.

It is unpopular to be concerned about the commandments of God. It is regarded as being legalistic. Legalism actually is compounding a system that is devoid of God's expressed will. It is making "eternal security" and "cheap grace" the basis of Christian living, instead of applying the Word of God. What God has commanded cannot be wrong.

We all are interested in doing our best to do our duty in the various situations in our lives. Are we as dedicated to fulfilling the most important duty that is ours to do. Our ultimate duty lies in our awe and obedience to God.

Have you been doing your duty?

DO NOT OFFEND AND BE NOT EASILY OFFENDED

Psalm 119:165, "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them."

Proverbs 18:19: "A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle."

The world can never understand the closeness of brethren in the Lord. There is nothing that is more of a threat to the devil's kingdom than brethren serving the Lord together in the spirit of Holiness. I believe that is why the devil works so hard at causing the brethren to disagree and fight among themselves. Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, said this, "Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. (Matthew 5:38-41). Going the second mile is not just relating to the world. We often must go the second mile with each other.

It is sad that oftimes we are unwilling to do so. We hear the lament, "He offended me, he should come to me and apologize," or "It is his fault, he must make it right." The statement may be correct, but is the spirit of the statement correct? To what extent must WE forgive our brother's offence? Seven times? or seventy times seven?

Those who love the Lord should not be easily offended, because who are we, anyway? Of what importance are we that others must beg us for forgiveness? Who are we trying to impress that WE must be right and others must be wrong? What kind of Christian would I be if, when insulted, by a Christian or a non-Christian, I sought revenge?

Our purpose in worshipping together and serving the Lord together is that the Lord may be glorified. Our individual reputations, our personal comfort, and our opinions, yea, even our personal convictions, must take second place to Christ and the Church and the advancement thereof. Those that take offence at every little thing do despite to God's people.

Those who are busy trying to be offensive do just as much harm. This type of behavior is similar to a person standing up suddenly in a lifeboat. It is dangerous to everyone. It puts people off balance. When there is a strong difference of opinion, particularly among leaders of a congregation, it does not take long for people to take sides. Polarization soon leads to division, and souls are usually lost in the shuffle.

Please, do not offend one of these little ones that believe in me, Jesus said. How many churches have split and how many innocents have been lost over the personal ambitions of a few?

Have you offended others? Have you been offended by others? How diligently have you sought remedy, not for yourself, but for the glorifications of our God?

It is important to understand that these things should not be limited to just our congregation or just our denomination. Romans 12:18 says, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." For the good of the souls of men, I trust that it indeed lies within us.

Brother Lynn Hayes Miller
RD #2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

PASS THE SALT !

Part 5

That's Salt

So how do we go about being salt? Fifty years ago people were ashamed if anyone found out they were sleeping with their boyfriend or girlfriend. Today people are ashamed to admit they're virgins. Adultery was not generally acceptable and neither was using drugs, heavy drinking, cheating on your taxes, pornography, abortion, or teenage rebellion. We're salt when we take a stand for what's right. Believers everywhere should be speaking out and saying things like, "I'm not going to lie to my Mom or my boss or the bill collector. I think abortion is wrong. I don't take drugs. I won't cheat my employees or my employer. I'm faithful to my spouse. I don't lord it over my children. I'll practice godly principles no matter what everyone else does."

We're often in situations that test our saltiness. Salty Christians won't compromise under pressure. They won't be silent when God wants them to speak, or take actions they know are contrary to His principles. And like Esther, they'll take risks and make bold moves – even in uncharted waters – when God asks them to.

Losing Our Saltiness

In the Middle East, salt is stored in buildings with dirt floors. The salt on the bottom loses its taste if it's on the ground too long. Once this happens there's no way to fix it. Then "salt" like this is thrown into the streets as gravel to fill cracks – and so it's trampled under feet of men, not to mention the feet of camels, goats, and dogs.

Saltless Christians are easy prey. They not only give the enemy access to their own lives, but to the areas of influence God gave

them to faithfully steward. This means the principles God gave them to uphold within their families, jobs, and communities are left unprotected. The Bible says, "As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him." (Prov. 10:26) God Himself has sent us forth with a message for the world. If we're too lazy to deliver it, we're not only tasteless, we've become a source of irritation and grief to the Lord.

Jesus makes it clear that it's possible for Christians to lose all that makes them different from those they're trying to make better. Believers everywhere labor to stay unspotted from the world – but there are some whose faith has next to no influence on their general conduct. It doesn't even keep them from corruption, let alone make them a purifying influence. In this case, Jesus' words are very severe, "... but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." (Matt. 5:13b) It's totally worthless for God and man. Jesus gets even more graphic about the fate of tasteless salt when He says, "It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." (Luke 14:35) Being useless for the manure pile is about as useless as you can get.

Once actual salt loses its flavor it's gone forever. But what about us? If we're meant to salt the world, yet we ourselves need to be salted, is there any hope? IF you've lost your savor – and that's a question only you can answer – it's a very serious situation. Knives that won't cut, or lamps that won't light are failing – no matter how good they may look. It's a solemn thing to be failing your mission for God. If you are, carefully examine your relationship with the Lord and see where you're falling short – then take the steps necessary to make it right.

I don't think Jesus intended His metaphor about salt to imply that Christians can't regain their flavor. If you've gone flat, there's nothing to keep you from going to God in honesty, humility, and repentance. In fact, returning to the Source is your only hope. It's staying close to Jesus, especially in prayer and the Word, that keeps us salty and out from under the feet of men.

Complied

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Our Christian Families

As we look about us today, we are shocked at the treatment of many children and young people. Parents have become so selfish and so disassociated from their families that they end up using them to some advantage rather than seeing them as God's special gift.

But this is not only true of our day. It was happening in the time of the Apostle Paul. Life was tragic for many children because of the Roman law called the "Patria Potestas." This law literally meant the "fathers power." It allowed the father to have absolute power over every single member of his family. For example, he could sell them as slaves or could make them work in his fields in chains. He could even take the law into his own hands and punish any member of his family as severely as he wanted ... even unto death.

When a child was born, it was placed between the feet of the father. If he reached down and picked up the child, it stayed at home. If he turned and walked away, the infant was literally "thrown away." In fact, Seneca, one of the great leaders of the Roman Empire, said that they would slaughter a fierce ox, strangle a mad dog, destroy a sick cow and children who were born weakly or deformed were drowned. When the children were discarded by their parents they would often be taken to the Forum and would be sold as future slaves. Children were abused in that sick society just as we often see in the world today. Why? Because Satan has always done everything he could to destroy the family... God's beginning and foundational unit of the Body of Christ.

Paul teaches us that we are not to leave children to develop on their own. As a parent, you are the key to his or her life. A loving environment of discipline is absolutely a must. Because of a child's mental, physical, social and spiritual inadequacy, they need nurturing and profound love to develop wisdom, stature and to develop in favor with God. (Luke 2:52). I have talked with parents who were totally frustrated with their children and the way they acted. But, if you looked at that home, it was not difficult to see the major Biblical components of a Christian home sadly lacking. What are those components?

1. A father's discipline... firm, fair, consistent and loving.
2. A mother's supervision... knowing what the children are doing and where they are.
3. A father and mother's sincere affection. There needs to be great love demonstrated between the parents that teaches the child what it means to love in God's way.
4. Finally, there must be a family's cohesiveness or unity. There must be time spent together and that time needs to be quality time... not just what is left over after everything else is done. The family that prays together... and plays together... is the one that stays together. Children usually live at the level of commitment that is learned in the home.

There are some cautions that are reinforced by God's Word that will help us in rearing well adjusted children.

1. Children should not be "smothered" or "fenced in." They need the opportunity to develop independence and to learn to face an hostile world.

2. There cannot be favoritism shown between children. Isaac favored Esau over Jacob... Rebekah favored Jacob over Esau... and the result was agony and chaos.

3. Comparing children in a family is also dangerous. Statements like, "Why can't you be bright like your sister?" are an excellent way to provoke a child to wrath and cause him to develop very negative feelings about himself and others.

4. Pushing children to achievement of goals that they are not capable of accomplishing is also disastrous. For them, nothing is ever good enough and the pressure to excel causes them to become bitter.

5. Discouragement at home is traumatic because there is enough negative input in the world and a child needs approval, rewards and honor from parents and from other brothers and sisters. If you continue to tell a child he is bad... he will be bad!

6. One of the horrors of our day is that some parents make their children feel like they are an intrusion into their lives. Ever heard this statement by a Christian couple? ... "Well, we'd like to get away, but what are we going to do with 'THEM'?" Tragic!

7. There must be allowances for childishness in children. They deserve to do some silly things now and then. They are not mature enough to be able to cope with some of the seriousness of some parents.

8. Finally, there is the problem of neglect. "No," you say, "Not among Christian parents." Remember the story of David and Absalom. Absalom was a neglected child and as a result he became one of the great heartbreaks in the life of this parent.

I sometimes tremble to think what our next generation of mothers and fathers are going to be like if we do not bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. If we do not help them to understand God's priorities and teach them in an atmosphere of love, the Church will be in great jeopardy. May God give us the desire to have the highest ideals and standards for our homes that they might glorify Him and that they might nurture productive and happy citizens of the kingdom.

Brother Len Wertz

A SIN OFFERING

Exodus 29:36, "And thou shalt offer every day a bullock for a sin offering for atonement: and thou shalt cleanse the altar, when thou hast made an atonement for it, and thou shalt anoint it, to sanctify it."

Hebrews 10:4-6, "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure."

Hebrews 10:10, "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

There is, in our opinion, a very strange teaching within the "conservative" Christian movement which says that Jesus Christ died for our sin (singular) and not for our sins (plural). It is true that we are all born with an Adamic nature which needs to be changed through a born again experience. However, this is only the beginning of our walk with the Lord.

The Israelites were instructed to "offer every day a bullock for a sin offering for atonement." We know that it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. (plural) If we can obtain sinless perfection, as some teach, this would take care of the problem. However, the Epistle of I John, along with other scriptures, leads us to believe that we will struggle with our sin nature as long as we are in the flesh. I John 1:9 informs us "If we confess our sins, (plural) he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Then we are informed, "If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." Remember this was written to Christians, not the unsaved. However, it is not the will of God that we should allow sin to have rule in our lives. This is why we are instructed in I John 2:1, "My little children, these things write I unto you that ye sin not." But then he adds, "And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." Even as the Israelites were instructed to offer a sin offering every day, we must have an attitude of repentance every day of our lives.

The Israelites were then instructed that they should "cleanseth the altar when thou hast made an atonement for it." Our heart, (our innermost being), is our "altar" that has to be cleansed. It is here where the ugly head of sinful thoughts will rear up and control our daily lives if we allow them to. This is why we are instructed in I John 3:9 "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." The Greek word of "commit" (poieo) is a rather complex word which could be defined as "continue to make or do." This says to us that a life of purity has to be a part of our new life in Christ. If there is no evidence of a change of lifestyle, this is an indication that an individual is not truly saved. If an individual is truly saved and then turns back to his former lifestyle, according to the word of God, he is again lost. This is made clear in I John 3:10, "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth

not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother." Those who teach that our works (obedience) have nothing to do with our salvation are arguing with the Word of God, not us. This should be a sobering thought to all of us that claim to be a part of the family of God. It should also make us "sit up and take notice" that if we do not love our brother we are as bad as the vilest of sinners!

Last of all, the Israelites were instructed "and thou shalt anoint it, to sanctify it." We are told that "we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." Praise God, it is the precious blood of Jesus Christ that cleanses from all sin and from all of our sins. This was a one time act by our Lord that included "all" that is everyone that was ever born. There is no need for a "mass" to crucify Him over and over again. No priest or earthly man can forgive our sins no matter how often we confess them to him. Jesus Christ not only forgives us of our sins but He sanctifies us. That is He sets us apart from the world. To give us the strength to live sanctified lives we are given the gift of the Holy Spirit.

It is good to worship the Lord in gathered assembly. In fact the Lord commands us to do so. It is necessary to follow all the teachings of Holy Scripture to please the Lord. But if these are "burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin" then God will have no pleasure in them. All of our efforts without the blood of Jesus Christ, the perfect sin offering, are in vain. Have you accepted this gift from God as your own? If not do so today. Follow the Lord in Christian baptism by trine immersion and you are promised the gift of the Holy Spirit. Then allow the Lord to lead you in a sanctified (set apart) life.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

MIRACLES OF CHRIST AS RECORDED IN GOD'S WORD

7. Feeding Five Thousand People

Matthew 14:15-21

In the short span of roughly thirty years, Jesus had many unusual experiences, using varied methods and miracles, besides paying for our salvation on the cross of Calvary. He taught by

precept and example. He seldom lacked an audience, which often contained multitudes (A large assembly.)

Multitudes followed Jesus. He had a busy day as recorded by Matthew. When it became eventide, the disciples told Jesus that they were in a desert place, meaning that there were no places to purchase food.

The disciples thought that Jesus should send the multitudes home. They knew not what was in Jesus' mind. I believe that He deliberately chose this desert spot to make His miracle of feeding so many, all the more impressive. **FOR SURELY HE WAS NOT GOING TO SEND ALL THOSE PEOPLE HOME HUNGRY.**

Perhaps many had miles to go, mostly by foot. Being with Jesus and traveling by foot, they were hungry and Jesus knew it. He was ready to meet the occasion. Jesus told the disciples the people need not leave, **YOU FEED THEM.**

The disciple's answer to Jesus' suggestion, in their minds, apparently was hopeless. They only had five loaves and two fishes. Jesus said, "Bring them to me." He commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass. He then took the boy's meal, five loaves and two fishes and asked God to bless it.

He blessed and brake and gave the loaves to His disciples. The disciples then passed the food to the multitude. Over five thousand men, women and children ate till they were full and satisfied.

Jesus started out with five loaves and two fishes. After close to nine hundred women and children, besides the men had eaten, and all were filled, they gathered up twelve baskets full. After He fed them He sent them on their way. That was a strict rule of Jesus. Never send a needy person away until that need is supplied.

After Jesus was alone, He went up into the mountain to pray. I believe it was a powerful prayer of thanksgiving.

Questions may arise. When did the loaves and fishes multiply?

During the times the multitudes followed Jesus, what rest room facilities were provided?

Were there no sickness or deaths among the multitudes?

My answer is simple. They were following Jesus and He provided all their needs. So does He, ours.

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44718

SIXTY YEARS AGO

April 15, 1933

ORPHANS

Sylvia Malott

I love very much to study about the life of Mary, Martha and Lazarus.

The scripture is silent in regards to their parents, therefore I am very much inclined to believe they were dead, and these three were left orphans, as we would call them.

Jesus seemed to be very much interested in them, and would many times visit them in their home. I truly believe they felt as though they had no friends like Jesus, and it was all because of that divine love that existed between them.

Mary was much more concerned about the deeper things in life, than Martha, who was always worrying about the cares of the home.

Three times we find Mary at the feet of Jesus. In Luke 10:39, we find her setting at the feet of Jesus for instruction, and to hear His words.

I wonder how much we are concerned about Jesus and how much He has done for us, and to heed the instructions He has given us.

In the 11th chapter of John we read about the death of Lazarus and how they longed for Jesus to be there, and of the great confidence they had in Him. "Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." In the 32nd verse we find Mary at the feet of Jesus for comfort which no other friend could give her. Can we imagine what wonderful love and compassion Jesus had for them, who then called Lazarus back to life again?

I believe there is a great lesson in this for us today. God had a purpose in view by taking the life of Lazarus, so that His glory might be revealed, and to show the power of His Son.

We do not always understand the mysteries of God which may be to bring us closer to Him, as in (Hebrews 12:11), "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless afterwards it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them that are exercised thereby."

In John 12:3, we find Mary anointing the feet of Jesus with the costly ointment to show her love and appreciation for the thing He had done for them.

How can we show our love to the One who gave His life for us? By doing His will, in keeping His commandments because we love to obey them from the very bottom of our hearts. In this way we can give our life and service to Him. Some of the best gifts we can give to Him is to keep our sister or brother on their way heavenward and to help those who are in need.

May God help us to recognize our responsibilities more in regard to those who have been left to fight their battles alone in life, that we may attain more of this pure religion, as given in James 1:27.

Father has gone to heaven, and left us all alone,
Mother so sad and lonely, burdened with every care;
Orphans all around are crying, nor ever a friend to care.
Yet Jesus the friend of all orphans
Is tenderly watching nearby,
And sees every tear drop that fall;
He knows why their hearts are so heavy
Cause they have been left so lonely
And no friend to care at all.
Each night as the dark shades gather,
Alone by a warm fireside
They tell their heartaches to Jesus
Who answers each little prayer.
When breaks the dawn of another new day,
The smiles of Jesus are seen in each beautiful ray;
I think I can hear Jesus say:
"Be good all little orphans, you'll soon meet together up here."

OBITUARY

WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

Bro. William E. Armstrong was born in Gladwin County, Michigan, February 28, 1920, to William and Catherine (Sinclair) Armstrong. He passed from this life on February 26, 1993 at the age of 72 years, 11 months and 26 days.

When he was eighteen years old, he moved to the Northwest Ohio area. He later accepted the Lord and was baptized as a member of the Pleasant Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church. He later transferred his membership to the West Fulton Congregation.

On July 4, 1940 he married Vera Eby, who survives. To this union were born seven children: Shirley Zimmerman, Wauseon, Ohio; Dorthy Lorenz, Greentown, Indiana; William Armstrong, Jr., Wauseon, Ohio; Albert Armstrong, New Palestine, Indiana; Lue Hostetler, Greenville, Ohio; Carol Niese, Stryker, Ohio and Clair Armstrong, Wauseon, Ohio. This union was also blessed with twenty-four grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

He is survived by one brother, Ellis Armstrong, Wauseon, Ohio and one sister, Nina Leckner, Gladwin, Michigan. Two sisters preceded him in death; Alta Lindberg and Mary Helen Armstrong.

Bill, as he was known to all of us, was always ready to help others when there was a need and had a sincere concern for family, friends, neighbors and the church. He was active in church gatherings and enjoyed the fellowship of annual church conferences.

His life revolved around his church, family and especially loved being with children and grandchildren. He always responded to the call from those around him to help build, fix, or repair anything.

After a life of good health and hard work he was called home by the Lord very suddenly and leaves his family with many precious memories.

The family wishes to express their thanks for the many expressions of kindness and sympathy during this time.

Services were conducted at the West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church by Brothers Charles Leatherman, Edward Johnson and Fred Johnson, on Monday, March 1.

GRANDPA KNEW

Sit down and let me tell you about the Grandpa that I knew.

He didn't go to college to learn what's new;
because he already knew.

Grandpa had the neatest things to excite and stir a boy's
imagination: tools, tractors, trucks and cars.

Grandpa knew.

For the girls, his hair was the place to put barrettes and
ribbons, much to their delight.

Grandpa knew.

Grease-smear'd bib overalls, dusty hat and muddy boots
were often the result of a hard day's work;
but don't wear them into the house.

Grandpa knew.

Campfires and Grandma's cookies were necessities for cold
and hungry boys on hunting trips.

Grandpa knew.

Eloquent words were few, but few words are needed if your deeds can speak for you.
Grandpa knew.

Now let me tell you about the things that Grandpa could do...

Motorcycles, lawnmowers and rototillers were never broken long if
Grandpa knew.

Allis-Chalmers tractors not running? or in a basket?
They were all soon running because
Grandpa knew.

Need some help? Nobody around? Call Grandpa!
He would be there soon.
Grandpa knew.

Don't believe for a second that fixing things was all he could do. He could bake angel food cakes too because Grandpa knew.

It's important to go to church and be there early, even if you aren't a preacher, teacher, or song leader.
Grandpa knew.

Finally, we must accept Jesus and live for Him too.
Grandpa knew.

If he was here today, he would say, "What's the fuss? Don't get yourself into such a stew."
Just trust and hope in the Jesus that
Grandpa knew.

NEWS ITEM

Thank You

I received many birthday cards and letters, for which I thank my Brethren and Sisters and friends in the work of the Lord. I cannot personally answer each one of these messages.

May God bless each one.

Brother Paul R. Myers

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 1993

May 2 - "Come unto Me" - Matthew 11:20-30.

1. Why were the listed cities cursed?
2. What blessings await those that come to Christ?

May 9 - MOTHER'S DAY - Genesis 17:15-22, 18:1-15.

1. What qualities define a Godly mother?
2. What is the highest calling of a mother?

May 16 - Lord of the Sabbath - Matthew 12:1-21.

1. How was Christ "Lord of the Sabbath"?
2. What qualities of Christ do we see in verses 19-21?

May 23 - Jesus and the Pharisees - Matthew 12:22-50.

1. What was the unpardonable sin mentioned in verses 31 and 32?
2. Who did Christ say were his mother, brother and sister?

May 30 - Parable of the Sower - Matthew 13:1-23.

1. Notice the different soil types and the resulting yield.
2. What would a "soil test" of our heart reveal?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 1993

May 2 - Fellowship with Christ - I John 1.

1. What is fellowship?
2. How do we gain and maintain sweet fellowship with Christ?

May 9 - MOTHER'S DAY - Deut. 27:16, Matt. 15:4-6, Eph. 6:1-3, Col. 3:20.

1. List some ways your mother has blessed your life.
2. Have you told her what a blessing she is to you?

May 16 - Pride - Ps. 10:2-4, Pro. 16:18-19, Luke 18:10-14, I John 2:15-17, Rev. 3:17.

1. What are some symptoms of pride?
2. What are the results of pride?

May 23 - Doctrine - I Tim. 4:6 & 15-16, I Tim. 6:3 & 21, II John 9-11, Jude 3.

1. What is a doctrine?
2. How are they important to us?

May 30 - Vanity - Psalm 39, Psalm 62:7-12, Ephesians 4:17-20.

1. Define vanity.
2. List some things that only amount to vanity in our lives.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXI

MAY 1, 1993

NO. 9

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
-------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

WHY WILL YE DIE !

O turn ye, O turn ye, for why will ye die,
When God in great mercy is coming so nigh?
Now Jesus invites you, the Spirit says, Come,
And angels are waiting to welcome you home.

How vain the delusion, that while you delay,
Your hearts may grow better by staying away;
Come wretched, come starving, come just as you be,
While streams of salvation are flowing so free.

And now Christ is ready your souls to receive,
O how can you question if you will believe?
If sin is your burden, why will you not come?
'Tis you he bids welcome; he bids you come home.

Come, give us your hand, and the Saviour your heart,
And, trusting in heaven, we never shall part;
O, how can we leave you? why will you not come!
We'll journey together, and soon be at home.

ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

Acts 5:1-14

The early Church at Jerusalem prospered as they were led by the Holy Spirit. The Church, though young and struggling, was growing. Among the members there was a sincere desire to do right and a heartfelt love for one another. The members were concerned with each other's well being. The care was so strong that they were willing to give up their private property and have everything in common.

This plan of common property meant the members sacrificed their possessions for the good of all. God has always desired that His people would have a feeling for the needs of others, especially those of the household of faith. Paul censured the Corinthians because the division among the members there. They would not even share their food on Lovefeast occasions. Those who were blessed with material goods were admonished to not waste those possessions on themselves but to share them with those who were not so blessed. This did not demand a communistic arrangement. In fact, because it was to be done by free will, rather than by force, it was of greater Spiritual value. To succeed all the participants had to freely and fully give of their possessions.

Unfortunately, there was one couple who did not honestly give as it was supposed they would. Supposedly, Ananias and his wife Sapphira, like the other members, were willing to sell their property and contribute to the general good. For some reason, after the property was sold and the purchase price was in their hands, they were tempted by the devil to retain a part of the money for them-

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selves. Perhaps they were concerned about their retirement years. Perhaps they didn't fully trust those who handled the Church's finances. Perhaps they wanted to be sure there would be something for their children when they were gone. Perhaps they thought they would keep back a little just in case they wanted something they could not have through the Church's distribution of funds. Perhaps it was simply greed that caused them to think of these excuses for not giving the whole amount. Anyway, they kept back a part of the price but claimed that they had given all.

The judgement of God was swift and dramatic. First Ananias, then Sapphira fell down dead at the feet of Peter. If they had come in the attitude of repentance they could have escaped their punishment. They had no intention of making their error right. Each lied to Peter when asked about what price they had received for their property. Their sins had been revealed and they had paid the penalty when they least expected it.

It might be wondered what good could come from such a tragedy. This terrible thing would be bad publicity for the infant Church. But there was good to come of this terrible event.

The other members of the Church received the benefit of the lesson concerning Ananias and Sapphira. They saw that God dealt quickly and dramatically with those who would toy with the truth. They learned to not allow Satan to get an advantage on them. They learned they needed to be in awe of God, who knew their activities and attitudes. He was a great judge, but He also provided a plan of salvation drawn on His Grace and Love. He provided a way of life that demanded attention to what they did in public and how they thought in private.

There was a lesson in this tragic event for the onlooking world. The people who were watching the Church critically saw that sin was not tolerated in the Church. The world sets a very high standard for the Church. That standard is higher than what the Church expects of herself. The members of the Church realize the imperfections of each other and are willing to be forgiving, but the world is expecting perfection and is very critical when there is less. In this incident, the world saw punishment come swiftly upon Church members who had sinned. When the world sees such a high standard espoused and lived up to, it is impressed. The world will be more willing to unite with the Church when they can detect a difference between the lives of the Church members and the rest of the world.

Instead of embarrassment, growth was the Church's reward for the sure hand of judgement that fell upon these two errant members. The Church today can provide love and discipline that will impress and win those of the world.

Surely the lesson of Ananias and Sapphira should provide warning and encouragement to believers, that their lives should be in line with their professions.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Christian Victory in the New Age

We need instruction today on how to live successfully for Christ and not get caught up in the New Age Movement. The power of Christ that is within us is the greatest force in the Universe but we must tap into it and allow the Holy Spirit to guide every facet of our life.

Never forget that the power of Satan is also great. This is undeniable. He has a master plan to control you as he works to control the planet Earth. You, as a Christian, are a primary target of his sinister plan because he desires to move you away from the Lord and count you as a part of his kingdom. The disciples of the New Age who are controlled by Satan will work to interfere with your spiritual goals and prevent you from reaching that ultimate goal of eternal life in heaven.

First of all, you need to safeguard your relationship with God. That will allow you access to His incomparable power. This must be a part of our extended family goals as we reach out in concern to each family member. It must also be a goal of the "Forever Family of God"... as we have a greater concern about our church family members and their children. **IT IS TIME TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED FOR GOD.** We must be activists in the communication of Biblical truths and be obedient to Biblical teachings. We may have to be tough. We may have to go against the tide... even of the conservative church. We must cling to the statutes of true Christianity at all costs.

Watch your children closely if they are in the public school system. Democratic free rights have virtually been destroyed there and Christians will have an increasingly difficult time opposing their humanistic and New Age direction. Rid yourselves of books that lend themselves to New Age thinking. Other kinds of communication that flood you with this thinking must be put away. This will be especially true of uncontrolled videos.

Arm yourself with knowledge. New Age religionists consider Christians as uneducated and ill-informed. Unfortunately, this is basically true. Know Bible doctrines so you can identify that which is evil as evil. You cannot drink from the cup of devils and from the cup of the Lord at the same time. We can have no part in the works of darkness, but rather we are to reprove and expose them. (Eph. 5:11)

Did Jesus compromise with the Pharisees and walk down their road? Did Moses snuggle up to Pharaoh or Paul accept the mystical religions of the Greeks and Romans in his day? Of course not. These men remained undefiled in their faith and did not grow weary in their fight for right.

The New Age people are looking for "common ground" in which they can take in Christians as they bend our wills to accept their divisive teachings. JUST SAY, "NO". They will hate you for it... even as they did Jesus Christ.

Keep in the Word. God has called you to study to be approved and not ashamed. Will you? This is the only way you can keep your thoughts fixed on the Lord's will for your life. This will expose the darkness of our age. Is there a good alternative to the Word for information? NO! "It is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword..." There is no other book of which that statement can be made.

Become verbal witnesses. I have been concerned for years about the concept of our "silent witness." Basically, a silent witness is just that... no witness at all. It is a cop-out concept that does very few people any good. We have to be verbal. Yes, we will be rejected when we give the Truth. But, we must do it. Your eternal life and the eternal life of others depends on it.

What is that message? How do you argue against the New Age? You use the Word of God and when you do, your words will not return void. Teaching the necessity of being "re-born" is a must. Eternal life can only be found in the person of Jesus Christ.

Be a thanksgiving and a thanksgiving person. There is power in praise. It will lift your spirits at any time and keep you ready to effectively defend yourself against satan's attack.

One thing that we must do... yes, even as Conservative Christians, is to cleanse our homes. Any objects or items that are unholy in nature have to be destroyed. This might include evil music albums, toys that are demonic, ungodly posters, statues and the like. These things are an abomination to God and they allow Satan to break into the home and unlock it for his benefit.

Pray every day that God will erect His hedge of protection about you, and your home, your church and others for whom you are concerned.

Now might well be the time to break contact with people who are New Age thinkers or those involved in behavior that is sympathetic to the New Age cause. You have the right and opportunity to communicate the truth to these people but if you take them into the circle of your close association, you are in great danger.

Keep up your courage. I sense an attitude of defeat in many Christian people today. Christ won the victory. He accomplished that on an old rugged cross almost two thousand years ago. YOU

ARE ON THE WINNING SIDE... IN HIM. Submit your life to Him and humble yourself in His service. He will intercede for you and "draw nigh to you." He will lift you to heavenly heights. HE WILL PROTECT YOU. And... He will give you entry into the REAL NEW AGE... that age that is prepared for those who will stay faithful and true to Him unto death.

Brother Len Wertz

HUMAN REASONING

Mark 2:6-7, "But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?"

There is no greater threat to faith than human reasoning. It may take on several faces like doubt or fear, but all the same it qualifies as human reasoning. It was present in the garden when the serpent said, "Thou shalt not surely die," and Eve believed him instead of God. It existed when Sarah laughed at the promise of God and said, "Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old?" It was there when Jonah fled the presence of the Lord and was cast into the belly of the great fish.

All through Biblical history people have doubted God, challenged His authority, laughed at His promises, killed his prophets, and ultimately killed His Son. Human reasoning would dictate that God is a tyrant desiring to manipulate and control us, and eventually destroy us. But scripture shows that the opposite is true. God loves us and desires that we worship and serve Him, but it is we who are the tyrants who rise up constantly in rebellion against Him. Man has even gone so far as to deny God's existence.

In our text, Jesus has just healed a man sick of the palsy who was lowered through the roof into His presence. Jesus saw the faith of these dear ones and forgave the palsied man's sins. By this time Jesus had healed many people and performed many miracles. These scribes knew that Jesus spoke with authority so even the most evil of spirits were subject unto Him. The scribes of the day were among the most educated of people, but they were not open to the Holy Spirit. Their reasoning was steeped in the traditions of men. They knew that only God could forgive sins, but their reasoning would not allow them to believe that Jesus was God in human form. Jesus showed them that it was no more difficult to forgive than it was for Him to heal someone. But to believe Jesus they had to first believe who He was.

On the one hand we have the scribes and Pharisees, who had so immersed themselves in the laws of God that they soon left God out of the picture completely. In the other extreme of human reasoning we have the Greeks. Acts 17:21 says, "For all the Athenians and

strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing." Today's prevailing attitude is, "Away with the old ways! Show us something new!" Christianity to them is an archaic religion and they want no part of it. Today Christianity is being squeezed out by our government because they do not want any God in authority over them. They say, "These things may have been good for previous generations, but we must move forward. Man can be his own God." Human reasoning has brought about godless humanism, evolutionary theories, communism, nazism, and the "New Age" Movement.

Many people today say, "I believe in God. Isn't that enough?" The answer is, "No." It is not enough to just "believe in God." We must also BELIEVE God. Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Human reasoning will get in the way of believing God every time. Human reasoning is at the root of every church fight, every church split, every sin, and every alienation of people who once loved one another. If you are at odds with someone in your congregation you can bet that human reasoning is behind it. If you are sitting at home and not even attending church right now, human reasoning has reasoned you away. Not only that, but it has reasoned away every Biblical doctrine from most churches and reasoned truth away from most others. Human reasoning is keeping a lot of Christians from serving God to their fullest. Have you given in to this terrible curse?

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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PASS THE SALT

Part 6

Out Of The Shaker

All around us things are decaying – from individual lives to areas of society to whole nations. It's time for us to get out of our shakers and tell the enemy to shove off! The Lord wants to use us to serve in new ways – for His glory and for the good of the world. I'm not talking about creating some kind of utopia where we have a perfect society. That will only happen when Jesus returns and sets up HIS government. Only then will every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. But as we anxiously await His return, let's conduct our lives in obedience to His Word.

God is doing new things in our midst – things that may not look like what He's done in the past. But we need to be a part of this movement of God even though it may not look like we expect it to.

Let's pray we don't miss it, or worse, mock it in unbelief. It's no accident we're alive at this time in history. Our generation has a unique destiny to fulfill. We have a window of opportunity before us – a period of time to get God's heart or miss His purposes. I think the Lord is tired of seeing His people play it safe. Many of us have been tucked away in church for the past ten or fifteen years – growing, getting grounded in the Word, and letting God build our character. We must continue in those things, but it's time to put it all to practical use.

God is raising up a generation of new leaders and just as Joshua carried on after Moses, God wants to pass the baton on to us. Our sacrificial service for the Lord is what will bring us up to speed, when like relay runners, we reach for the baton. As the salt of the earth we must purify, heal, preserve, and season. Let's rise to the occasion and do it with all our hearts!

Music has an important role in my life each day. I feel strongly that Steve Green was given these words to write to remind us of our duty in life as "the Salt!"

PEOPLE NEED THE LORD

Every day they pass me by. I can see it in their eyes.
 Empty people filled with care; headed who knows where.
 On they go through private pain. Living fear to fear
 Laughter hides their silent cries ONLY Jesus hears.

CHORUS:

People need the Lord. People need the Lord.
 At the end of broken dreams He's the open door.
 People need the Lord. People need the Lord.
 When will we realize that we must give our lives because
PEOPLE NEED THE LORD !

We are called to take His light,
 To a world where wrong seems right.
 What could be too great a cause
 With sharing Life with one whose lost?
 Whose love our hearts can feel
 All the grief they bear
 They must hear the Words of Life
ONLY WE can share!

Compiled

SIXTY YEARS AGO

May 1, 1933

SEVEN THINGS ABOUT SALVATION

J. L. Myers

1st – It is a common salvation (Jude 3), "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." When we look at the fourth verse of the same chapter we will notice. "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."

We find that Paul said to the Romans, "for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God"; then again we see the prophet Isaiah say, "Look unto me and be ye saved all the ends of the earth, for I am God and there is none other."

2nd – It is a free salvation. (John 3:16) "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." "And the Spirit and the Bride says come and let him that is athirst come, and whosoever will let him take the water of life freely."

3rd – It is a personal salvation. David says. "Lead me in thy truth and teach me for Thou art the God of my salvation, on Thee do I wait all the day."

4th – It is a present salvation. Paul says, "I have heard Thee in a time accepted and in the day of salvation have I succored Thee. Behold now is the day of salvation."

5th – A powerful salvation. Davis says, "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer. My God and my strength in whom I will trust, and a buckler and the horn of my salvation."

Paul says, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, to the Jews first and also to the Greeks."

6th – It is an eternal salvation. Paul says, (Heb. 5:9) "And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."

(II Cor. 4:17) "For our light affliction, which is for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

7th – No escape if we neglect this great salvation. "For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation.

(John 3:36) "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

So let us all be faithful to this common salvation. How thankful we should be that Jesus became the way of this salvation that whosoever will, can get it, if we submit our will to His will by obeying His word.

MIRACLES OF CHRIST AS RECORDED IN GOD'S WORD

Jesus Casts Devils Out of Two Men of Gadara

Matthew 8:28-34

Immediately before this lesson Jesus and His disciples were caught in a storm on the Sea of Galilee. The storm was so severe it covered the ship with water, but Jesus was asleep. The disciples awoke Him. He rebuked the winds and the sea and there was a great calm. The men in the ship marvelled, saying, "What manner of man is this that even the winds and the sea obey him."

Please keep in mind the power and might Jesus possessed, given by His Father in Heaven.

By reading the scripture given above, first, you get a better mental picture of the lesson of the healing of these two men.

After the calming of the storm, the Bible states they came to the land of the Gergesenes. There He met two men possessed with devils. (N.B. The definition of one source states that they had a supreme evil power, which man alone could not control himself.)

These men were, apparently, in a cemetery. They came out exceeding fierce so no man might pass that way. At least, they knew Jesus. They cried out, "What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?"

Quite away from them was a herd of many swine feeding. The devils prevailed on Jesus that if He was going to cast them out, they wanted to be cast into the herd of swine.

He said to the devils, "Go." They went into the swine and caused them to become deranged enough that the whole herd ran violently down a steep place in the sea and perished in the water.

The keepers of the swine returned to the city. They told what happened to their swine. They told what had befallen those who had been possessed of the devils.

"And behold the whole city came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him, they besought him THAT HE WOULD DEPART OUT OF THEIR COASTS." WHAT A WELCOME!

He departed in a ship unto His own city. May no reader of this article ever ask Jesus to depart from their lives.

Brother Paul R. Myers
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Canton, Ohio 44718

PETER'S LESSON IN HUMBLE SERVICE

When Peter refused to have Jesus wash his feet, Jesus told him he would have no part with Him. But Peter could not think of having no fellowship with His Lord and Master. Realizing what this would mean, he cried, "Not my feet only but also my hands and my head." He wanted full fellowship with his Lord. But Jesus told him those who had been bathed in Christian baptism, only needed to have their feet washed. All he would need was this humble service of having his feet bathed and he would be clean every whit.

It is always a very sad thing not to obey the Saviour. We must follow in all His appointed ways. This is one of the ways the Saviour laid down for His Church to follow. Are we doing the things He commanded, or are we using the excuse that it was just for the Disciples? His way is the only safe way and He commanded us to follow in His footsteps. If we do just that, we will keep not only one of the ordinances of His house but all.

Jesus kept the Father's commands. We will have fellowship one with another and Jesus' blood will cleanse us from all sin. This is a humble hearted service. We as His followers want to be humble.

Moses truly said, "A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you, like unto me, Him shall ye hear in all things and it shall come to pass that every soul that shall not hear these things shall be destroyed from among his people."

Now remember, they shall obey Him in all things. Right here we have the humblest lesson given, that of Feet-washing. It was practiced and taught by our loving Saviour, and yet so many who call themselves Christians won't stoop to wash their Brothers' or Sisters' feet.

O dear ones, what is wrong? Have we gotten on the wrong path? Jesus says he that humbles himself shall be exalted and he that exalted himself shall be brought low.

He also taught us in His word that to be carnal minded is death but to be Spiritual minded is life, joy, and peace. For the carnal mind is enmity against God and is not subject to the law of God neither indeed can be. He tells us the Word of God is spirit and life. We as His followers need His Spirit to guide us and keep us true. We want His life in us, so we will do as He has taught and wash one another's feet.

Sister E. M. Alltus

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

Would Not Charge a Preacher

J. H. Moore

Some distance south of Gainesville, Florida, is the charming little town of Micanopy. Less than one hundred years ago it was a prosperous Indian village, where lived the powerful Indian chief, after whom the village was named. Nearby is one of Florida's picturesque lakes, bearing the same name. One could spend weeks here, among the old settlers, listening to Indian legends, and to the stories that are told about the accomplishments of the famous chief and his charming daughter.

But when I visited the village, while residing in the State, some years ago, it was a place of some little business, but more generally noted for its delightful orange groves. It was laid out in lots, some small, for business purposes, but most of them varied in size from one to five acres. All of these lots were taken up with orange groves. A man with two acres would leave room enough for his house, a few other small buildings, and plant the rest of his land in orange trees. The trees, when I saw them, were large, bore well, and gave the little town the appearance of one vast orange grove, with houses here and there nestled among the evergreen trees. An acre or two of orange trees supported a family. Little work was required to care for the trees, and never before nor since have I seen people so contented as these people appeared to be. They seemed to have all their hearts could wish, and felt that, so far as a living was concerned, they were absolutely independent.

In my rounds, through the middle part of Florida, business called me to the town, and I put up one night at a boarding house kept by the widow Knox. A number of others were boarding at the same place. The landlady seemed very kind to all present. In the morning I paid my bill, and went on about my business. Six months later it became necessary for me to visit Micanopy again. It was near midnight when I reached the town. I turned in at the same house where I stopped before, and by a young man was shown into the same neatly-furnished upper room in which I had slept on my previous visit.

After partaking of a good breakfast, the next morning, I asked the kind lady what my bill was. She said, "Fifty cents." I tendered her a silver half dollar. She reached her hand to take it, then suddenly letting her hand drop, she looked me full in the eye, and nervously said, "I am informed, sir, that you are a minister." I told her I was. She then said, "I never charge a minister for staying in my house." I told her that I did not wish my position as a minister

to exempt me from paying my hotel bills, as I was traveling on business. She insisted upon adhering to her rule. After thanking her for her kindness, and wishing her success and much happiness in life, I went away from that house, saying to myself, "There are more good people in this world than it gets credit for." All day long these words rang in my ears: "I never charge a minister for staying in my house."

OUR CALLINGS: SALVATION AND SERVICE

Romans 10:13-15, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?..."

Romans 15:30-31, "Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me; That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judea; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints;"

We believe the greatest promise given in Holy Scripture is that "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." We believe that Holy Scripture teaches that God the Father calls us through God the Holy Spirit to salvation provided by God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. This mystery of Three in One and One in Three is beyond our human knowledge and understanding. Yet the Holy Trinity provides our salvation and calls us to it.

But the question is asked, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?" While the Holy Spirit calls individuals to the place of repentance, those that are saved have the responsibility of sharing the Lord Jesus Christ with the unsaved. Then it is asked, "and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?" We realize that the conservative Brethren have never been greatly missionary minded. This is one area where we are not in agreement with our tradition. The Scriptures seem to indicate that at one time all mankind was aware of the true Gospel. For Paul says in verse 18 of this chapter, "But I say, Have they not heard? Yes, verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world." Is this not God's desire for today?

Then Paul adds, "and how shall they hear without a preacher?" We cannot fully explain it, but we believe that every individual born on Earth has the opportunity to be saved. Yet many at home and abroad have been deceived by a false religion or teaching. They will

never hear the true Gospel if we do not share it with them. This seems to be what the apostle is speaking about since he then goes into a discussion concerning Israel.

We consider the popular teaching that the Jews will be saved apart from the work of the Church to be a dangerous doctrine. To teach that they will or can be saved without the shed blood of Jesus Christ and their acceptance of this is heresy. No RELIGION can save us, including the religion of Christianity. Lest we be misunderstood, we wish to make it clear that Christianity is the only true religion upon the Earth. But some have filled this religion with false teachings by false prophets. This is why we need preachers who will preach the pure Gospel.

The Apostle Paul ends with, "And how shall they preach, except they be sent?" We believe that our Brethren teaching that a preacher is to be called by the Church is Scriptural. We believe "missionary work" is needed at home as well as abroad. While salvation is to be the central theme of our preaching, it should also include directions for daily living. We appreciate the fact that most revival services include messages that are directed at the Church as well as the unsaved.

Our service is to be towards one another. Paul's words, "Now I beseech you, brethren," should have a great impact upon us who call ourselves BRETHREN. What we do should be "for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake." We bring honor and glory to that most wonderful name by living a life that is pleasing unto Him. Our service is also to be "for the love of the Spirit." Do we really realize what a great gift the Holy Spirit is in our lives? We have heard it said that we are not to worship the Holy Spirit in the same way that we worship the Father and the Son. We question this type of theology. He is God, the same as the Father and the Son.

Paul requests that "ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me." Do we pray for our ministers and for one another? Or are we so busy striving against one another that we have no time to strive together in prayer?

Paul's desire was that he might be delivered from them that do not believe. Make no mistake about it, society in general is no friend of true religion. But our greatest enemy is not society or the unsaved. It is those who claim to be believers but in reality believe a lie and thus in reality are unbelievers. If persecution comes it will come by and through the liberal church!

Paul's final desire was that his service might be accepted of the Saints. Paul's desire was that the Church would put their blessing upon his efforts. The earthly church is not infallible. She may call an individual that God has not called. We do not believe a congre-

gation must tolerate false teaching just because it comes from the pulpit. A minister should be building up the faith, not tearing it down.

We praise God for our salvation and the teachings in His Word. Let it be our desire to be of service to Him, whether it be a call to "official" office (if we are qualified) or everyday commitment we are each called to do.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

NEWS ITEMS

NOTICE

GENERAL CONFERENCE

June 5-9, 1993

The Lord willing, General Conference will be held at the Maranatha Camp Grounds, located 13 miles east of North Platte, Nebraska on Interstate 80. Exit at Maxwell and go south for about 1/4 of a mile to the service road, then west for about 2 miles to the grounds.

Those coming by plane or bus will need to call the grounds from North Platte, for someone to pick them up. (The bus does not stop at Maxwell.)

There will be some bedding for those who don't have room to bring it with them. Send your reservations to:

Bro. Marvin Halderman

P.O. Box 304

Quinter, KS 67752

or

Bro. Jerry Moss

2495 240th St.

Dallas Center, IA 50063

Address for the grounds:

Maranatha Camp Grounds

H.C. 01 Box 51

North Platte, NB 69151-9715

Telephone (308) 582-4513

Brother Carl Reed

Arrangements Committee

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The West Fulton Congregation is looking forward to their Love-feast on May 15 and 16, with services starting at 11:00 on Saturday. We would like to cordially invite all who can to come and worship with us. Please pray for these services.

Sister Dianne Heisey, Cor.

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

PRECIOUS MOMENTS

At ev'ry motion of our breath,
Life trembles on the brink of death
A taper's flame that upward turns,
While downward to the dust it burns.

Moment by moment years are past,
And one ere long will be our last,
There is a point no eyes can see,
Yet on it hangs eternity.

This is that moment – who shall tell,
Whether it leads to heav'n or hell?
This is that moment – as we choose,
Th' immortal soul we save, or lose.

Time past and time to come are not –
Time present is our only lot;
O God! hence-forth our hearts incline
To seek no other love than thine.

- James Montgomery

THE VALUE OF MAN

We hear almost daily of men's cruelty to others. It would seem there is very little value placed upon human life or very little regard for the property of others. People are killed for a few cents or because of some supposed snub. Even when those who have murdered have been apprehended, they often have shown an attitude of disregard for the seriousness of what they have done.

Not only are lives casually snuffed out by criminals, but also by governments. Governments raise armies to send into battle expecting lives to be sacrificed in behalf of the nation. The score-keeping in warfare is tallying the number of killed and wounded on each side. The side with the fewer casualties will be the winner, although there may have been innumerable losses on that side also. Warfare never places a great value upon human life, only in how those lives can be used to secure territory or political objectives.

Governmental agencies and other large bureaucracies have reduced people to numbers, without regard to their individual personalities. Business is conducted in a way that people are treated with a "take it or leave it" attitude. There is little value placed upon the individual, except for the profit that can be gained from his purchases.

Governmental agencies recognize a person's value in his ability to pay taxes or provide a number in a census, that will secure a greater return from a higher agency.

Man is valuable, despite the impression given by the world around us. Outside of the obvious value that each person has to

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themselves and the inborn desire to protect and nurture that life, there is a value that exists just because we are human beings.

The life of man is valuable because God created man. After God had brought into being the entire universe, He made His highest creation, man. The Earth was created in pristine beauty. The Heavens were without pollution. The animals and birds and fishes were all in their elements. As beautiful and perfect as all this creation was, there was none that could communicate with God. There was no possibility of fellowship. Unlike the rest of His creation, man was created in God's own image.

When God created man, He made His highest creation different from all the rest. He not only gave man a wonderfully designed physical body, He also gave him a mind that was capable of reasoning and remembrance. As wonderful as this mind and body was, the greatest difference was that when God breathed the breath of life into man, he became a living soul. The other parts of creation would thrive for a period of time. When their seasons of life were finished they became fertilizer for the next generation. Man was given a soul that was eternal. He was capable of communion and communication with God for he was not only made in His image, but also had within him a soul that desired communion with the One who gave it. Man is of more value than any other part of the creation because he is a Spiritual being, who can communicate with God.

God made man perfect, both physically and Spiritually. Unfortunately, sin soon entered the human heart and robbed the soul of its perfection and its standing with its Creator. Sin also affected the physical body so it too suffered decay because of sin's effects. Still God continued to love His creation and desired that it would be returned to the perfection that it had once known. He gave value to the life of man by paying the ultimate price, His Son, Jesus Christ, to buy back man's soul from the works of sin. Nothing else would ever have availed to redeem lost man. Jesus was the Perfect Sacrifice. He lived a life as a man, yet unlike any other man, He lived a perfect life, so He could be the perfect sacrifice. A life for which such a high price was paid must be worth alot.

Not only is man's life worth much because of what was done for it in the past and what is being done by God, day by day, to provide for its needs, both temporal and Spiritual, but because of what is in store in the future. The life purchased through the blood of Jesus Christ and in communion with God can look forward to a Heavenly Home with God throughout eternity. The human life is of great value because of the future that lies ahead. When this life is over there is a far better, eternal Home that awaits in the realms of Glory.

Human life is valuable. We should value that life, whether our own or others. The best way to show our appreciation for our lives is to live that life to please God. We should be striving to doing His will, that we might honor the One who has created us with a soul that seeks its Maker. He has given us something valuable, let us not spoil it.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"STOP SIGNS"

One of the first lessons we learn as we gain the right to drive a car is there are stop signs at intersections and other dangerous places to protect us and others from accidents. In the Christian life there are also stop signs. In addition, there are "warning signs." These caution us to some danger and make us alert to the environment around us.

We need to be very much aware of the caution signs that occur in the satanic environment in which we live. These can be easily defined and should help us to be alert and "on our toes" so that we can respond appropriately to give aid.

First, rebellion is a great sign of satanic and New Age control. If you know someone who suddenly changes in attitude from obedience to total rebellion to authority, satanism or New Age participation might be the reason.

If you observe an attitude of disrespect toward authority or toward parents that again comes on quickly, check it out.

The possession of books on the occult or books on magic technique are also signs of interest or involvement with satanism. There are many publications available today that cue up the interest of youth and adults alike in the metaphysical things of this universe.

Another sign of New Age adherence is the rejection of ethical and moral norms and being vocal about the acceptance of all kinds of thinking and philosophies.

Having animosity toward the Church and Christianity is a sign of satanic activity in someone's life. Constant criticism of the church, Her leaders, Her ideals and ethics indicate a movement away from the Lord and into the mainstream of an occultic society.

The possession of artifacts and novelty items that relate to the occult or New Age is typical of someone who is involved in this movement. Fascination with knives with medieval handles and blades, incense burners, certain tribal drums or bells, charms and amulets are indications of a problem with occultic or New Age involvement.

Again, a great interest in the study of or dabbling in New Age philosophies or rituals show us a real danger sign. Working with ESP powers, channeling, crystals, reincarnation and similar rituals are typical of people caught up in the danger of the '90's. Along with that is self-mutilation or body painting.

To be obsessed with black colored clothing gives us a warning signal. This clothing might incorporate T-shirts with pictures of heavy metal rock stars, satanic symbols or the like. Fascination with death is also a part of the picture.

The use of drugs or alcohol are warning signs of deep problems that might be grounded in New Age/Occultic problems. Along with this is the worship of rock stars and interest in the New Age "mood" music.

Obsession with fantasy role-playing games might well indicate a problem. People who are into this in a big way frequently have little empathy toward the hurts of other people and like to "use" them to their advantage. They become cruel and inhumane and are fascinated by the evil things.

Satan would attempt to convince people that these things are not dangerous and might even be solutions to problems. But let us be warned. Involvement with the "prince of this earth" will only lead to disaster and loss of eternal life. Become alert to problem areas. Be involved and pray, pray, pray. Satan desires to have you... to capture your soul. Become grounded in Jesus Christ. Work for the increase of faith and holiness.

Brother Len Wertz

HYMN HISTORY

"Let The Lower Lights Be Burning"

Philip Paul Bliss (1838-1876) had two rare gifts: he was about as ecumenical as a Christian can be, and he could rarely hear a story without being inspired to write a new song.

When he was twelve years old he was immersed into the fellowship of the Baptist Church, Cherry Flatts, Tioga County, Pennsylvania, but not long thereafter he began to participate in Methodist camp meetings and revival services. When he married, he united with the Presbyterian Church of which his wife was an active member; and for some years he was Sunday School Superintendent and Choir member of the First Congregational Church, Chicago.

As for his musical training, it was hit-or-miss for many years because of his poverty. When he heard a piano for the first time, he was a ten-year-old barefoot boy. He was so fascinated by the music that he entered the house and said to the young lady who

was playing, "O lady, play some more." Instead of responding courteously, she rebuked him for coming into her home barefooted and sent him speedily on his way. Later he was associated with song-writer George F. Root and for nearly ten years conducted singing schools, musical institutes and conventions throughout western United States. He had been about every thing from a farm worker to a saw mill operator to an assistant cook in a lumber camp by the time he was converted, but he GLADLY and ENTHUSIASTICALLY gave the rest of his life to the singing of the praise of God and the writing of songs expressive of his own religious experience.

Later when royalties from his "Gospel Songs" poured in to the amount of thirty thousand dollars, despite his own financial condition he turned over the entire amount to this friend and co-worker, Major Whittle, for the furtherance of their evangelistic efforts.

One night he was listening closely as Dwight L. Moody was preaching. The eloquent minister told a story concerning the captain of a boat that was nearing the Cleveland harbor on a dark and stormy night. Added to the dangers from wild winds and mountainous waves was the further hazard of trying to approach the harbor when not a single star could be seen in the blackened sky. The captain, seeing but one light from a lighthouse, asked the pilot, "Are you sure this is Cleveland?" "Quite sure," the pilot replied. "Where are the lower lights?" he asked again. "Gone out, sir," the pilot answered. "Can you make the harbor?" he asked a third time. "We must or we perish, sir!!" was the reply. Despite the strong hand and a brave heart of the man at the wheel, in the darkness he missed the channel and the vessel crashed upon the rocks with great loss of life. Moody concluded with this exhortation, "The Master will take care of the great lighthouse; let us keep the lower lights burning."

That very night, Bliss wrote the words and music of one of his most popular gospel songs:

Brightly beams our Father's mercy, From His lighthouse evermore;
 But to us He gives the keeping Of the lights along the shore.
 Let the lower lights be burning, Send a gleam across the wave;
 Some poor fainting, struggling seaman, You may rescue, you may
 save.

The song was first published in "Gospel Songs" in 1874, two years before Bliss' tragic and untimely death.

This was not the first time such an inspiration had hit him. Three years earlier he had heard Mr. Brundage close a sermon with these words, "He who is almost persuaded is almost saved, but to be almost saved is to be entirely lost." With that sentence ringing in his ears, he wrote the words and music of "Almost Persuaded." When a

minister spoke of Daniel's bravery in opening his windows toward Jerusalem and praying, despite an edict of the king forbidding such an act, he wrote both "Dare To Be A Daniel" and "Are Your Windows Open Toward Jerusalem." From the Old Testament story of Jonathan and his armour-bearer winning an unexpected victory over the enemy, he composed "Only An Armour-Bearer." The newspaper account of a group of soldiers being surrounded on a hilltop during the Civil War, calling upon their fellows to rescue them from the enemy, only to receive this reply from their commanding officer, "Hold the fort! I'm coming!" led him to write one of his most rousing songs, "Hold The Fort!!"

Gifted with a remarkable voice, ranging from low D flat to high A flat, he introduced many of his compositions himself. From his fluent pen flowed such familiar favorites as "The Light of the World is Jesus," "I am so Glad That Jesus Loves Me," "Man of Sorrows, What a Name," "More Holiness Give Me," "Wonderful Words of Life," "I Will Sing of My Redeemer," and "Pull for the Shore." During the twelve years from 1864; when he published his first song, a popular ballad, "Lora Vale," until his death in 1876, he made a deep, profound and abiding impression upon the musical life of American Christendom. While some of his compositions are not as popular now as when they were written, others have found a place worthy of their lasting beauty in the hymnals and hearts of Christians throughout the world.

The story of his accidental death is told in connection with the hymn for which he composed the music, "It Is Well With My Soul."

Used by permission - Baker Book House
"Living Stories of Famous Hymns"

Within the last four years, our children and I have been interested in learning music. When used as a tool of worship, singing becomes a blessing from our hearts to God. We trust that you will find the stories that follow an inspiration as well.

Sister Shirley Frick

WHY WE DRESS PLAINLY

I John 2:15, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world..."

I Corinthians 7:31, "... for the fashion of this world passeth away."

We live and dress plainly because we are no longer of this world. The world passes away but the Kingdom of God endures forever.

We live and dress simply and plainly because God has chosen the simple things of this world to confound the wise. We do not seek after the pleasures of this world because the pleasures of this world are vain.

We live and dress plainly because God has ordained it in scripture for those who love Him. If you love me, God says, keep my commandments, and my commandments are not grievous. You will not be sorry if you serve God. He will bless your obedience.

We live and dress plainly because, not only have we read and acknowledged that the scriptures are true and should be obeyed, but we have read the writings of our fathers in the faith and they also bear witness to the truth.

We live and dress plainly because, as Hebrews says, we are compassed about with such a cloud of witnesses. Our Church fathers, acquaintances in the faith, and others obedient to the scriptures have been examples to us. The most devout, spiritual, and Christlike people we know have lived simple, plain, separated lives before God and man.

Many today resist the Biblical admonition to "come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord." Religion today has to be "progressive," or "some new thing" for most folks to take notice. To Paul the call of God was irresistible. God told him, "It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." He was obedient to the heavenly vision.

Let us do all to the honor and glory of God.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD #2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

AT THE COMMANDMENT OF THE LORD

Numbers 9:23, "At the commandment of the LORD they rested in the tents, and at the commandment of the LORD they journeyed: they kept the charge of the LORD, at the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses."

John 14:21, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."

John 15:17, "These things I command you, that ye love one another."

There is much confusion within the earthly church concerning following the commandments of the Lord. There are those who believe following the commands given within Holy Scripture is the only need to obtain salvation. They reject a need for a personal experience with the Lord at which time an individual is washed in the blood of the lamb. Then there are those who teach and preach that to include obedience in the salvation experience makes this a works righteousness and is contrary to Scripture. In Acts 5:30-33 we find what the apostles taught on this subject. "The God of our

fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him." There is much within these verses that we could discuss and give our opinion on. But one thing is very clear, salvation came when Jesus Christ was "hanged on a tree," and Old Testament expression, that refers to His death upon Calvary's cross, and that the gift of the Holy Ghost, which is a sign of salvation according to Acts 2:38, is given to them that obey Him.

There is also much confusion as to where the Old Testament fits into our obedience. The majority of churches teach that the Old and the New Testament are on the same level. As Brethren we have always held to the teaching that the New always interprets the Old and never vice versa. Yet we have rejected the modernistic thinking that the Old Testament is not as inspired as the New Testament. The whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation is the infallible Word of God.

"At the commandment of the LORD they rested in the tents." There are some things that we must allow God to handle on His own. It is our conviction that the desire for large gatherings in churches has caused human wisdom and understanding to replace the work of the Holy Spirit. We do not wish to be judgmental but we fear that the move to having song services replace Sunday night preaching is a move toward popular thought and away from the true moving of the Holy Spirit. We also feel that Bible study is best left for Sunday morning.

"... and at the command of the LORD they journeyed." There are also things that God expects us to be up and doing. We believe we could take missionary work more serious than we do. As we have said before, we have no desire to go to a foreign land, therefore we do not stand in judgement of others. But we would hope that we are not hypocritical when we sing.

"I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord,
I'll do what you want me to do."

"... they kept the charge of the LORD," John 14:21 makes it very clear that to be within the will of God and to receive the blessing of the Father and the Son we must have HIS commandments and keep them. While we do not believe God has "tossed the ten commandments out the window," we do not believe that they are the rule for New Testament believers except for the fact that all but one are repeated in the New Testament. The one concerning the Saturday sabbath keeping is replaced with Sunday worship.

"... at the command of the LORD by the hand of Moses." In a very real way Moses was God's special agent. Even after his death

the "Law of Moses" was followed. We believe the Church holds the same place in this day of Grace. Much is said concerning the laws of men in place of the commandments of God. We believe we should be very careful when judging others by our church standards. If the earthly church was infallible there would never be any need to make any changes. We all know that most, if not all, denominations, gatherings and movements have "changed the rules" over the years. Yet we would seriously question change just for the sake of change or for the reason that what we practice is no longer popular. Woe unto the Dunkard Brethren church, or any movement, if they allow popular opinion to replace Scriptural obedience!

We understand John 15:17 to be saying that following the commandments of Jesus Christ helps us to love one another. Our Lord goes on to say, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you." Somehow much of Christianity has twisted this around. Their actions teach that following the standards of the world brings love among the church. This appears to be so, but it has to be a false type of love since it is the opposite of what our Lord has taught. If following the commandments of Jesus Christ does not bring us to being more loving of one another there is something wrong with our hearts not with Holy Scripture!

At the commandment of the Lord repent from your sins, allow the blood of Christ to make you whole as you enter into the waters of baptism. At the commandment of the Lord let us truly love one another and desire to walk in HIS WAYS.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

MIRACLES OF CHRIST AS RECORDED IN GOD'S WORD

9. Raises the Widow's Son to Life

Luke 7:11-16

And it came to pass the day after, that He went into the city called Nain. Many disciples went with Him. Along with many disciples, the Word says much people followed.

There had been a death in Nain. It was a widow's son, possibly her only child. When Jesus drew near, He saw a dead man at the gate to the city. With the mother of the dead son were many people.

When Jesus saw her, He had compassion, as He had for many people, many times. He sayeth unto her, "Weep not." I would

assume that many of her friends there tried to comfort her and ask her to try and hold back the tears, but to no avail.

Jesus walked to the bier. He that carried the bier stood still. Jesus said, "Young man, I say unto thee, Arise." And he that was dead sat up and began to speak and Jesus delivered him to his mother. What a happy occasion that must have been. The dead raised to life before many witnesses. The mother could truthfully say, "My son died and Jesus brought him back to life."

If some one we knew, died and was made alive again, it would create joy and at the same time fear. Verse sixteen states there came a fear on all, (everyone) and they glorified God. "Glorify" means: "to give glory to, and exalt, to honor, or to extol."

This acclaim was in response to the raising of one from death to life. What will be the conduct of all people on that FIRST and Best Resurrection, both for those who arise and go with the Lord and those who remain?

In the coming Resurrection, forecast in the scriptures, God will visit HIS people and take them to their Heavenly Home.

WHAT A DAY THAT WILL BE AND IT IS COMING.

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave.
Canton, Ohio 44718

SIXTY YEARS AGO

May 15, 1933

CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

J. A. Leckron

Why there are so many kinds of baptism is a mystery to the writer, for if we want to have the only legal baptism, then we will take the kind Jesus has given us in the great commission (Matt. 28:19), "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Now in giving us this commission, Jesus knew what He was doing, and wanted to make it plain to any one what He meant, by using the Greek word *Baptizo* to denote repeated action, meaning there should be one action for each person represented in the commission.

The same word is used in II Kings 5:10-14, in the case of Naaman who had leprosy, it took repeated action, so the word *Baptizo* was used. You will find this word used eighty times in the New Testament, and two times in the Old Testament, and in every place it indicates repeated action.

The Greek word Bapto means to dip, but does not say how many times, but in using the Greek word Baptizo meaning repeated action, and in English it would mean dipping. Then when we look at the word in the light it is written, we are at a loss to understand why so many try to get out of the very thing that Jesus wants us to do. Now let us look at it from this standpoint. Suppose we tell you to take any object and baptize it in water, then we would say to someone else, you go and take the same object and sprinkle it in water, then we say to another, you go and pour the same object in water. Do you see what a mix up you get into? Now you can see that the great commission says to baptize them, and if we are to be baptized then we are the object that is to be applied to the water, and not the water to us, for if we are to be born again (born of the water) how can we be born again unless we are conceived into, and born out of a thing that is larger than we are? Did you ever hear of anything in the whole world that was larger than the thing that it was born of? We know you didn't. Then why try to twist the Word to suit you? Much could be said on this great subject, but it would take too much space, but we will ask a few questions to those who believe in the other kinds of baptisms originated by men. First, we will take the single immersionists to think upon:

1. Why did the inspired writers discriminate in favor of using Baptizo in preference to Bapto in writing of Christian Baptism?
2. How can a person be immersed into three separate beings, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost by a single act.
3. How can you baptize as Christ commanded in Matthew 28:19 by a single act?
4. Can you find a sentence in English, Greek or Latin literature parallel to the commission that you can perform by one act?
5. By whose authority do you baptize? If by Christ's, where does He state this authority and how do you obey it? (Read Matt. 28:19)
6. Christ calls His suffering in the garden a baptism. Matt. 20:22, Mark 10:38. In this baptism how many times did He bow? Read Matt. 36:39-44, Mark 15:35-41, Luke 22:41.)
7. Can you find any historical reference to single immersion before it was instituted by Eunomius in the fourth century?
8. Can you point to any scripture that teaches one action as plainly as the commission (Matt. 28:19) teaches three?

Now for some questions for backward immersionists to think upon:

1. Where in the Bible is there a command to fall backward in doing any command, or in any act of worship?
2. Where in the Bible is there an example of any man of God falling upon his back in obedience to any command, or in any act of worship?

3. Since passing through the Red Sea is a figure of Christian baptism (I Cor. 10:2) and the children of Israel were commanded to "go forward" where is the authority for backward immersion?

4. Since our Christian baptism is a planting "in the likeness of his death" (Rom. 6:3-5) where is the authority for falling backward in baptism?

5. Baptism is for the remission of sins. "Without shedding of blood is no remission," (Heb. 9:22). "The blood of Jesus Christ (shed in his death) cleans us from sin." (I John 1:7) In what act of baptism do you come in contact with that blood?

6. Where is baptism said to be like a burial?

7. Can you find any historical mention of backward immersion before the year A.D. 1522?

8. What passage of scripture caused you to think the action should be backward?

9. Christ calls His suffering in the garden a baptism. Was His action backward or forward? Read Matt. 26:39-44, Mark 14:35-41, Luke 22:41.

And now as to those who practice pouring for baptism, they have no argument. We know that some have it in their discipline or rules and regulations, and they take it from the prophet, Joel (Joel 2:28-29) "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit." Now where do you get any water baptism out of this scripture? Joel is simply stating what God told him to say, and that was that he was going to pour out his spirit upon all flesh, and there is no water mentioned at all, and this prophecy was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost, (see Acts 2:16-17)

Now for a few facts to consider: (1) Triune immersion can be traced by history to the apostolic age of the Christian church. (2) For the first twelve centuries triune immersion was the almost exclusive mode of baptism. (3) The Greek church, with a membership of 100,000,000, reading the original Greek language, have always baptized by triune immersion. (4). John the Baptist baptized by triune immersion in the river Jordan. (5) Christ commanded His disciples to immerse all who accepted His teaching. (Matt. 29:19) (Baptizo at that time meant everywhere immerse.) (6) Sprinkling was substituted for baptism by uninspired men, and at first was practiced only on sick persons who, if they recovered, were then immersed. (7) In no instance of baptism recorded in the New Testament is there a single condition or circumstance evidencing that the rite was performed by sprinkling. (8) All the figurative language used by Christ and the apostles in reference to baptism conveys the idea of an immersion. (9) No man, by reading the Bible alone,

was ever convinced that sprinkling was the mode practiced by John the Baptist or the apostles, but may have convinced himself, and been convinced from other sources that sprinkling will do, just as some claim, pouring will do, or is good enough.

We ought to listen to God rather than man, and my heart's desire is, that many who are not accepting the proper mode, will see the error of their way, and turn and come as Christ has told us in John 3:5, "Jesus answered: Verily, verily, I say unto thee (Nicodemus) except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

We trust that every reader of this article who has any doubt as to the correctness of our statements, that they will search the scriptures and see whether these things be true, as they did in the days of old.

Our prayer is that we all may strive to do more each day the things that will please our Heavenly Father, and at last have one of those Mansions which He has prepared for all that love and serve Him.

MARRIAGE

HEISEY - BEACHLER

Sis. Stephanie Heisey and Bro. Benjamin Beachler were united in marriage March 19, 1993. Parents of the couple are Bro. Jan and Sis. Freda Heisey of Taylorsville, Mississippi and Bro. Steve and Sis. Susan Beachler of the Torreon Mission, New Mexico. Their address is 127 11th Avenue, Laurel, Mississippi 39440.

NEWS ITEMS

THANK YOU

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We would like to thank our Church family for all the prayers, concern, and card we received after Kyle's accident.

We are extremely grateful for the financial help that you as our family have generously given. May God bless each of you for your sacrificial gift of love.

Through this whole experience we have felt the presence of our Almighty God, and can truly say we are held up at the throne of grace through your prayers. We know now that God definitely does take care of His children if we just rest in HIS will!

Kyle's hand is doing very good. The doctors are very impressed with the healing of his hand.

God is so good.

Our love in Christ,
Don, Mabel, Joel, Kyle,
Levi and Joshua Chupp

GENERAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

of the

DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH

to be held at

MARANATHA BIBLE CAMP
NEAR NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA

JUNE 5, 1993 thru JUNE 9, 1993

PREACHING PROGRAM

TIME	SPEAKER	SUBJECT	TEXT
Sat. P.M.	Len Wertz	"Atrophy Under the Belfry	Rev. 3:14-22
Sat. P.M.	Phil Gish	"Wing It"	II Tim. 4:2
Sat. Eve.	Fred Pifer	"Ruling Well His Own House"	I Tim. 3:1
Sun. A.M.	Sunday School for Children	"One Who Restores Sight to the Blind"	John 9:1-41
Sun. A.M.	Dale Jamison	"The Blessedness"	Matt. 5:1-12
Sun. A.M.	Rudy Cover	"Living by the Word of God"	Matt. 5:14-46
Sun. P.M.	Michael Wray	"Forgiven and Forgotten"	Heb. 10:1-18
Sun. P.M.	Henry Walker	"Our Mind"	Rom. 8:6
Sun. Eve.	Robert Carpenter	"How Much Salt in a Loaf of Bread"	Matt. 5:13
Sun. Eve.	Ray Stuber	To the Young People "Stop Signs for Single Saints"	I Pet. 2:11
Mon. A.M.	Bible Study Adults:	"Hardened Through the Deceit- fulness of Sin"	Heb. 3:1-19
	Children:	"Israel Delivered by God"	Exod. 14:1-31
Mon. A.M.	Paul Nell	"Worship - What Does It Mean?"	Matt. 4:10
Mon. P.M.	James Eberly	"Setting Up the Standard"	Jer. 4
Mon. P.M.	Kenny Wilkerson	"Stones"	I Pet. 2
Mon. Eve.	Virgil Leatherman	"The Christian Extra"	Matt. 5:47
Mon. Eve.	Hayes Reed	"Behold the Man"	John 19:1-7
Tues. A.M.	Bible Study Adults:	"Receiving Rest By Faith"	Heb. 4:1-16
	Children:	"Joseph Forgives His Brethren"	Gen. 45:1-28
Tues. A.M.	Jason Reed	"An Anabaptist Position on National Issues"	II Chron. 7:14
Tues. P.M.	Decorum Committee	Missionary Program	
Tues. Eve.	Herman Jamison	"The Harvest"	

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 1993

June 6 - Mustard Seed, Tares, Leaven - Matthew 13:24-43.

1. What is the Kingdom of Heaven?
2. How is the enemy sowing tares in our fields?

June 13 - Hidden Treasure, Pearl of Great Price, Net - Matt. 13:44-58.

1. What is the spiritual treasures of great value?
2. What decision on our part relates to "selling all?"

June 20 - Father's Day - Genesis 45:1-28.

1. How did Jacob's favoritism affect the harmony of his family?
2. How did Joseph show honor and respect for his father?

June 27 - Temperance - II Peter 1:1-11.

1. How does temperance affect other qualities in our life?
2. Does Satan play on our lack of self discipline?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 1993

June 6 - Builders - Nehemiah 4:1-23, I Corinthians 3:10-14.

1. What Spiritual building is there for us to do?
2. What materials are you using to build your spiritual house?

June 13 - Unity - Ephesians 4:1-32.

1. Why is unity so important to the body of Christ?
2. What character qualities contribute to unity?

June 20 - Father's Day - Deut. 5:16, Job 1:1-5, Prov. 30:11-12, 17, II Tim. 3:2-4.

1. How can we show respect and appreciation to our fathers?
2. Does your father know you appreciate his investment in your life?

June 27 - Temperance - Daniel 1:1-21, Luke 1:15.

1. How is temperance being applied in your life?
2. How can self discipline protect your life?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
-------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

GETTING READY

Our Savior came to this earth,
Revealed His Father to men,
And returned again to heaven
Until He sends Him again.

To draw the faithful to Him,
And they rise up in the skies
To live in mansions above,
Where all of their treasure lies.

Let us now feed on His Word,
Storing up food for the soul,
Living our life for Jesus,
Safely sheltered in the fold.

We'll keep our lamps filled with oil,
Enough for the darkest night,
Keeping the wick trimmed down,
So our light shines clear and bright.

- Irene Stout

NEHEMIAH'S WALL

When Nehemiah arrived at Jerusalem, he found the city wall broken down, breached and in rubble. Where the wall was standing the mortar was weak. Whatever the condition of the wall in a particular place, overall it was useless. It was not a defense against the powerful enemies surrounding the city. The city could not be secure without a wall that would withstand the attacks of the enemy.

Immediately, Nehemiah began to organize the rebuilding and repairing of the wall. He set different groups of people to rebuilding certain sections of the wall. By each group doing the small portion given to them, the wall soon began to appear more formidable than before. The unity of the city in doing the assigned labor brought a greater strength to the city. All had participated and all would benefit.

Along with this new strength came a new challenge. When they had begun to rebuild the wall, their enemies had merely ridiculed them. They did not think these poor, untrained people would be able to strengthen their defenses. As the wall neared completion, their enemies began to take them more seriously. They tried various tactics to discourage the people from continuing to build their wall. They sought a restraining order from the king. They tried to divide the people. They threatened them with destruction. It was necessary for the people to redouble their efforts to complete the wall so they would be safe.

Nehemiah's wall provided the protection needed for the poor and weak group of people in Jerusalem. Nehemiah's wall also provides

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a picture of the wall of separation needed by the Church in every age. His wall protected his people. The wall of separation provides protection for the people of God. That need has not disappeared over the years. Actually there is a greater need today than ever. The enemy of our souls is ever seeking a means to get advantage over us, so we must use every protection possible to defeat his purposes.

A wall is built to keep the enemy out. The Christian's enemy takes many forms and does various things to break down the Christian's resistance. The Christian needs the extra protection that a wall of separation provides. A Christian needs more than determination to withstand the enemy's pressures. In theory, he might be able to stand unaided, but with a wall of separation he is better able to withstand those pressures.

It is as evident as Jerusalem's existence in the midst of a world of enemies that Christians are surrounded by those who are not in sympathy with the Christian's beliefs or lifestyle. Whether by outright opposition or by craft and guile, the Christian will be tempted to become at home in the world. The world that entices and ridicules will also condemn when the Christian tries to have "the best of both worlds". A Christian must live in this unfriendly world and he must do it with Christian grace. He cannot lock himself away as a hermit, but he must live upon a higher plane than the world. He cannot tackle the world with its own weapons, but must use the weapons given to the Christian soldier.

He needs the wall built by Christian unity. The wall of separation must be agreed upon by the body of believers as the place of protection for all. All may not need the same level of protection, but all should help construct and use that wall so the weakest as well as the strongest will be protected.

If the wall of separation disintegrates the enemy will be able to attack and defeat the Christian. Many see no harm in doing as the world does, even when principles of Christian living are violated. At first there is a slow movement away from the standards that had been accepted. As the Christian becomes accustomed to that first, tiny movement, he is prepared to compromise on other issues.

Change is always operating, but care must be taken that change is not made simply because the world does not like the old ways. Seemingly, there are procedures and customs which are open to change, but there must be caution about changing just because the wall of separation is old. Looking back at a later time, many realize the error of choosing to lower their standards. They wish they had the old ways back, after they have abandoned them.

Nehemiah's people had a mind to work together to build the wall of protection around Jerusalem. In union, Christians need to rear the walls of separation, so there will be a definite line of demarcation between the Church and the world.

Have you built your personal wall of separation?

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Created Man or Beast?

It is amazing that the theory... or doctrine... of evolution has been generally received by the entire intellectual, scholastic world. It would seem that they hardly question it. When I was at the University, there was no option given as to its validity and science has determined that evolution is the only explanation for the appearance of the forms of life that we see in the world today.

I remember a text that read, "Man and ape represent each a distinct species, equally descended from a common prototype." This is perpetuated in some common magazines such as National Geographic and Life.

Is there a reason why we as Christians can't accept any part of the theory of evolution? Why can't we be a "theistic evolutionist?" A theistic evolutionist believes that God created man from one protoplasmic speck and then evolved him up to where he is now. Of course, if you love truth and the One who has given His life for you, you naturally recoil at the very thought of coming from a speck and not being created by God as He teaches us that we were in the Book of Genesis. After all, where did the speck come from? How did it get there? Who did it? Are there any logical answers to these questions? Of course not!

We can't ride two horses in opposite directions. We have to make a choice. The Bible presents a world created by the Hand of a living God. It presents a personal Deity, through whose infinite power all of these things were made and devised and formed to perfection. The evolutionist says that all of these things came through a materialistic, impersonal action with no explanation. This violates the whole Word of God, the atonement of Christ, the preaching of the gospel message of Jesus and the testimony of the Spirit filled writers.

We are taught that God created man in His own image. This was the top of His creation... above all animals, plants and other created things. But, could we have mutated from something else? Could an amoeba have become a fish, a fish an amphibian, an amphibian a reptile, a reptile a bird and a bird a mammal? How preposterous and absurd.

Mutation is seen on every hand... even today. There are some roses that are pink, some yellow, red or white. These roses are mutative. They are "varieties." There are chickens of all kinds... some small, some large, some black, red, yellow, white or even speckled. Yes, they are mutative. They are still chickens... creatures within their own kind. Have you ever seen a rose mutate into a chicken... or, even an apple tree? Of course not. That would be evolution. If a chicken can become a cow or your dog turn into a rabbit, then you can believe in evolution.

In reality, the probability of life beginning from accident is comparable to the probability of the unabridged dictionary resulting from an explosion in a print shop. The likelihood is comparable.

When you look at a sunset and see God's colors and look at the universe and see the handiwork of the Master... you see God. You appreciate God for His marvelous creation. It is God who paints them with the colors of His brush. It is God who gives us the mind that is able to appreciate the physical properties of His creation. Only man is created with the mind to appreciate and love God for these blessings.

Oh, the wonderful mystery of man. We are made in God's image... no beasts are in our background. We need only to bow our heads and humble our hearts in the presence of our great Designer and Creator... the Architect who fashioned us. May the Lord give us wisdom to see past the academic world of our generation and put our faith in God... our only hope. Look in the book of life... the book of nature... and see the marvelous hand of God creating all that is and all that will be to come.

Brother Len Wertz

THAT THE WORD OF THE LORD MAY HAVE FREE COURSE

II Thessalonians 3:1, "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you."

One writer's understanding of "that the word of the Lord may have free course" is, "that the Lord's message will spread rapidly and triumph wherever it goes, winning converts everywhere as it did when it came to you." Another writer expresses it this way, "that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you."

Paul's desire, it would seem, was that the word of the Lord would be spread at great speed to a world without hope or understanding. Many are using this type of Scriptural teaching to prove that we

must lay aside all of our doctrines and traditions to further the work of the Lord. We do not believe that we can limit the work of the Lord to one denomination or movement. We believe God is at work in areas where the name "Brethren" has never been heard.

Paul continues in verse 2 of this chapter, "And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith." Paul may have been referring to those outside the faith who desired to ruin his ministry and even take his life. But we also recognize that there are those who claim to be within the faith who are unreasonable and wicked men. There are those who are so group minded that they will not accept anyone outside their fraternity as a part of the true faith. We believe this is being unreasonable and is a harm to the cause of Christ. On the other hand, there are individuals who have no standards whatsoever for accepting others as part of the faith. This is also unreasonable. Most will condemn those who are wicked that are outside of their gathering but many will make excuses for those within their establishment.

Paul continues, "But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you and keep you from evil." We have a oneness in the Lord Jesus Christ. If the word of the Lord is to have free course we must bring honor to his name. The word of the Lord is glorified when the Son of God is lifted up among and to all men. Yes, the Lord is faithful to us, but are we always faithful to Him?

After Paul has given the Lord Jesus Christ first place, he makes a statement that is rejected by many Christians. "And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you." There are those who say that they follow the Lord Jesus Christ and not the Apostle Paul. Notice that Paul does not say "that I command you," but "that we command you." It is God's will that the word of the Lord have free course, but it is also the will of the Lord that we are given guidelines. We recognize that Paul and the Apostles were merely common men in one sense but they led in a special way by the Holy Spirit. No man living today, including the Pope, is as infallible in making statements of understanding concerning Holy Scripture as the Apostles were. But we believe that God has ordained Church leadership to guide the flock.

Paul next tells us how the work of the Church is to be established. "And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ." If we truly love God it will not be a burden to follow the teachings of Holy Scripture. The world is full of those who desire to make havoc of the teachings of Holy Scripture. The world is leading the earthly church instead of the church setting standards for the world.

Paul stated that the word of the Lord had free course and was glorified "even as it is with you." One writer seems to think this

refers to the conversion experience only. Another writer seems to indicate that this also includes honoring the word of God. This seems to identify the two schools of thought prevalent in our day. One group teaches that we should preach and teach salvation only and another group teaches that we must preach and teach "all things." There are various "in between" doctrinal stands.

We believe the Word of God makes it clear that if Jesus Christ is not Lord of our lives He is not truly our Savior either. This does not mean that we can judge who is saved and who is not. But it does mean that a church can set standards that all members are expected to live by. If those standards are not upheld are we trying to escape the traditions of men, as some say, or has the world taken hold of our hearts?

Yes, the word of the Lord must have free course. It cannot be bound by the thoughts and teachings of mere men. But it cannot, or at least should not, be ruled by the ways of the world. Has the word of the Lord had free course in your life? Have you accepted the plan of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Have you been baptized by trine immersion? Have you truly allowed Jesus Christ and the Word of God to be Lord of your life?

Brother James M. Hite
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MIRACLES OF CHRIST AS RECORDED IN GOD'S WORD

10. Heals Peter's Mother-in-law

Mark 1:29-31

I believe that it would have been impossible for any man to follow Jesus day after day in all the duties He performed. He was busy during the day, in the evening, often at night. One scripture says He arose a great while before day-break on a particular day.

Besides healing and feeding multitudes, which according to one instance in healing, He said, virtue had left Him, He was surrounded by multitudes of people. That crowding and mingling with so many people regularly was wearing on Jesus, too.

He never neglected His duty, but He oft sought a place of solitude for prayer and perhaps rest. By communing with the Father in Heaven He gained strength for the work ahead of Him.

That is an example for us. Before entering into some spiritual endeavor, we should pray for strength and guidance.

Prior to performing this miracle, he cast an unclean spirit out of a man. This apparently was performed in the synagogue. After they came out of the synagogue, they entered into a house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

They tell Jesus of the sickness of Simon's mother-in-law. Jesus came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her and she ministered unto them.

How busy a physician would be today if he had the power to immediately heal. He could soon become wealthy through his charges.

Jesus made no financial charge for His healings. Instead of living in a luxurious mansion, HE HAD NO PLACE TO LAY HIS HEAD. He could heal every known disease. He could restore sight to the blind. He could cause the lame to walk, and so forth. THIS FOR THE PHYSICAL BODY. Think of the thousands He healed.

We must remember His priority was to heal the souls of men. The people crowded Him to be healed physically but we do not read in the Holy Writ that people flocked to Him for salvation.

Would to God that, in this day in which we are living with so much crime and bloodshed, the wicked would appeal to Jesus to forgive them of their sins and make them whole.

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44718

HYMN HISTORY

"It Is Well With My Soul"

Tragedy preceded the writing of the words of this hymn and followed closely the composing of the music.

The French liner, "S. S. Ville du Havre," was the most luxurious ship afloat when it sailed from New York in November, 1873. Among her passengers was Mrs. H. G. Spafford of Chicago, making the trip with her four children, Maggie, Tanetta, Bessie and Annie. Mr. Spafford was unable to make the voyage with his family because of business commitments in Chicago, so recently ravaged by the Great Fire. But, even though he was happy that his family was travelling on a ship with Christian companions, some last-minute premonition made him change the cabin they occupied to one toward the bow of the vessel. He told them "goodbye," promising to meet them in France in a few weeks.

At two o'clock on the morning of November 22, 1873, when the luxury liner was several days out, and sailing on a quiet sea, she was rammed by the English iron sailing vessel, the "Lochearn." In

two hours the "Ville du Havre," one of the largest ships afloat, settled to the bottom of the ocean, with a loss of some two-hundred twenty-six lives, including the four Spafford children. Nine days later when the survivors landed at Cardiff, Wales, Mrs. Spafford cabled her husband these two words, "Saved alone." When he received her message, he said to a dear friend, "I am glad to trust the Lord when it will cost me something." For him it was a second time of testing, coming almost too soon upon the heels of the first. In the Chicago Fire he had lost everything he owned; in the tragedy at sea he had lost his four precious children. As soon as he could, he booked passage on a ship to Europe to join his wife. On the way over, in December of that same year, 1873, the Captain called him into his cabin and said, "I believe we are now passing over the place where the 'Ville du Havre' went down."

That night he found it hard to sleep. But faith soon conquered doubt, and there, in the mid-Atlantic, out of his heart-break and pain, Mr. Spafford wrote five stanzas, the first of which contained these lines:

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea-billows roll,
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well, with my soul!"

When they met some weeks later, Mrs. Spafford said, "I have not lost my children. We are only separated for a little time."

Mr. Spafford and Philip Paul Bliss, song leader and composer, were not strangers. Both had been associated with Moody and Sankey in several of their evangelistic campaigns, and Bliss had led the singing on a few occasions when Mr. Spafford had been the speaker. At the request of the author, Bliss agreed to set Spafford's poem to music. On the last Friday in November, 1876, in a meeting in Farwell Hall, Chicago, where more than a thousand ministers were gathered, Bliss introduced "It is Well With My Soul" as a sacred solo. A month later, when the ink on the manuscript paper was hardly dry, Mr. and Mrs. Bliss, leaving their two children with his mother, took a train from Buffalo, New York enroute to Chicago, where a new series of services was Friday afternoon, December 29, 1876. At eight o'clock that night, while approaching Ashtabula, Ohio, a bridge crossing a ravine gave away and the train and its seven cars of passengers plunged into the icy river below. Fire broke out almost immediately, killing many who had escaped drowning, but were imprisoned by falling beams and twisted timbers. Of the one-hundred sixty passengers, just fifty-nine bodies were eventually accounted for; there were only fourteen survivors. One of them reported that Bliss could have escaped, but, as his wife was hopelessly caught in the wreckage, he remained at her side,

and together they met the on rushing flames and certain death. For three days his friends remained at the scene of disaster, but they found nothing that could be identified with the thirty-eight year old song leader of his wife, although scores of articles were raked from the ashes and gathered from the bottom of the river.

They have no earthly grave – the four Spafford children who drowned in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, and Mr. and Mrs. Bliss who perished in the train wreck in Ohio. But their hymn which followed one tragedy and preceded another, lives forever in the hearts of Christian people, who rejoice that both the Spaffords and Blissesses could truthfully and triumphantly say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."

Used by permission - Baker Book House
"Living Stories of Famous Hymns"

How about you: Are you ready to meet the Lord today if He should call you before the sun sets in the west?

Is it well with your soul?

Sister Shirley L. Frick

PRAY

"Pray without ceasing." I Thessalonians 5:17.

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." Ephesians 6:18.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." Proverbs 29:18.

Do any of us pray enough? Have any of us spent even one night in prayer? With all there is to pray for, the spiritual condition of our churches, our dying young people, the drifting of scriptural holiness, and unsaved loved ones, can we be idle for one minute? I know, you say we are but human. We need time for ourselves, to rest, to work, and the like. But how much time do we spend on the behalf of others? A preacher may spend fifteen hours a week in study for a Sunday morning message. A teacher may spend ten hours a week in studying for the lesson. Is it satisfactory to God that we do not spend an hour a week praying?

There are many reasons to pray. First and foremost is to commune with Our Father. Much time should be spent just on our face before Him. If we are in tune to the hearing of His voice, He will alert us to things and people that we need to pray for. The scripture tells us that if we are children of His then His Spirit will bear witness with our spirit. Will we SEEK to please Him. His wish will be our command. Jesus tells us to take His yoke upon us because it is easy and light. When He took our burdens upon His

shoulders they were grievous sins and they were heavy. But His burden is light. How much have we to thank Him for! Our thanks and praise should be the foundation of every prayer.

We read of Jesus and Paul and their communion with God in the wilderness. Many days and nights were spent in communion with God without thought given to personal comfort or gain. We read of the great prayer warrior David Brainard, who gave himself for the salvation of the Iroquois Indian. We read of John Hyde whose compassion toward India was so great that he forsook food and rest to pray for India. Have you a loved one outside the fold? Pray for that person. Is your family in sickness or trouble? Pray for them. Do you have a burden for the souls of men? Pray on. There is no greater satisfaction known than to pray and to pray long enough and earnestly enough to arise from your knees satisfied.

The Bible tells us to know the Lord. Prayer and the study of the scriptures helps us to know God. The Bible says, "Learn of me." Too easily are we satisfied with a quick grace before meals and a few audible prayers on Sunday.

Pray! You know how much there is to be thankful for, and you know how much there is to pray for. The EFFECTUAL FERVENT prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Do we believe this?

Brother Lynn Hayes Miller
RD #2 Box 561
Round Barn Road
Newmanstown, PA 17073

SIXTY YEARS AGO

June 1, 1933

THE MASTER BUILDER

Sylvia Malott

In the book of Kings we find that Solomon was chosen king of Israel. And as Solomon felt his weakness to undertake such a great task, he asked the Lord to help him, and to give him wisdom, that he might rule and judge His people in the right way. The Lord granted his desire and gave him wisdom and filled his heart with understanding, and told him what to do. Then He commanded him to "build a house unto His name."

Now we want to notice one of the most important instructions the king gave to his workmen, as to how they should build the temple.

They were to hew the timber and stones for their proper places before they were brought into the temple. (I Kings 6:7) "And the house, when it was in building was built of stone made ready

before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor ax nor any tool of iron heard in the building."

We also want to notice the 11, 12, 13, 14 verses: "And the word of the Lord came to Solomon, saying, concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I perform my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father; and I will dwell among the children of Israel, so Solomon built the house and finished it."

You who are Bible readers, will know the story of what a wonderful temple this was which Solomon had built.

Dear brethren and sisters let us try and grasp the spiritual lesson about this temple, and the master builder.

The church of Jesus Christ is compared to a building, Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone. The Lord being the great Master Builder. The ministers of the gospel are His workmen, and everyone that accepts Jesus Christ as their personal Savior is a part of this building. Therefore, "let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon."

Now let us notice the material that is to be used in this building. First, the stones and timbers were to be hewn and made ready before they were brought into the building, and they allowed themselves to "be made" ready. O, I would that everyone who comes into the church could fully realize what it means for us to allow ourselves to "be made" by the great Master Builder.

In the 5th chapter of John there was a man who was waiting by the pool of water that he might be healed of his infirmity. Jesus said to him, "Wilt thou be made whole?" Every one must allow themselves to "be made" whole by God, if the work is to be a success.

Workmen are you doing your duty, as the workmen of Solomon did? Do you fully instruct every member that is taken into the church as to what will be required of them in order that they may become a part of this building (the church)? And if we allow ourselves to "be made" ready by the Master Builder, then we will be perfectly fitted for our place when we come into the church. If we could all adhere to this wonderful teaching I am sure there would be less trouble and little need for discipline. God is not pleased with so much noise being made in the "building." Which may be contentious and strife among us, as His people. That is why the material is to be made ready before it is brought into the building.

When the children of Israel were obedient to God's law, He was with them, and blessed them in their work: and when disobedient they suffered for it. And we find the same is true today. God has promised eternal life to all those who do His blessed will.

May God help us all to be obedient to the church, and allow ourselves to "be made" by the great Master Builder, is my prayer.

OBITUARIES

BERNARD FLICK

Bro. Bernard William Flick, was born February 4, 1919 to Joe and Josie Flick in Virginia and passed from this life on April 1, 1993, in the Grandview Hospital, Dayton, Ohio.

He, along with his brothers and sisters, was placed in an orphanage at an early age due to the death of his mother. This orphanage was run by William and Josie Lam. His brothers and sisters were placed in foster homes. Being the youngest, he was kept at the home. When William and Josie Lam retired from the orphanage they took Bernard to live with them.

Realizing the need for a Savior, he was baptized at an early age.

On December 12, 1941, he was united in marriage with Edna Marie Heisey. To this union were born three sons, Thomas, John and James.

He worked as a farmhand, pursuing the agricultural field. He moved from farm to farm several times, getting experience in different types of farming enterprises.

He had to retire twenty-two years ago due to heart trouble. In 1979 he had open heart surgery.

He, along with his faithful wife, moved to Verona, Ohio in December 1973. He had suffered declining health for many years. Mother did her best to take care of him, but in November 1991, he went to Brookhaven Nursing Home in Brookville, Ohio.

He was taken to Grandview Hospital early on Friday morning, March 26 with severe abdominal pain. He was diagnosed as having pancreatitis. He was released from physical pain by death at 4:30 P.M. Thursday, April 1, 1993. His age was 74 years, 1 month and 28 days.

He was preceded in death by his foster parents, brothers, sister, half sister, one daughter-in-law and an infant granddaughter.

Surviving are his devoted wife; three sons, Thomas E. and his wife, Mary Ellen, John B., James W. and his wife Paula; three grandsons, Rex and his wife Mareda, Edwin and Jamie and one granddaughter, Elizabeth.

His earthly toils are over; may he rest in peace.

Funeral services were conducted at 10:30 A.M., April 5, in the Dunkard Brethren Church in Englewood, Ohio by Bro. Dennis St. John and Bro. Harley Rush with Bro. Paul Stump at the grave. His

body was laid to rest in the Sugar Grove Cemetery near Pleasant Hill, Ohio.

The Family

GLEN L. STAUFFER

Bro. Glen L. Stauffer was the oldest child of seven children. Glen was born to Edwin and Betty (Keller) Stauffer on October 8, 1950. He was afflicted with a blood disorder called hemophilia, which required many transfusions.

Because of this health problem, he was somewhat limited in some activities but basically lived a very normal life, trying to do most things others did and usually succeeding, and sometimes surpassing. He loved life – he loved people. And he kept busy by investing time and energy in the lives of others.

Glen accepted the Lord as a young child and was a member of the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church. He had served on the church school board till recent months. His occupation was sales manager for Ebling's Lawn and Garden.

He married Joyce Stump on June 29, 1968. They had three children: Tom, married to Marge Russell, Teresa and Trent, both at home.

Through his blood transfusions he acquired the dreaded disease of AIDS. Even then, he looked to the future bravely and poured his all into life. In November of 1991 he became seriously ill from complications of the disease and doctors didn't think he'd live more than hours. But God extended his life and gave him an additional fourteen months to live. During that time he kept active as much as he could and kept a remarkably optimistic outlook.

But on January 31, 1993, his time had come and the angels carried him home. The call had come for Glen to leave his afflicted body and to be given a new, whole, perfect one.

ROBERT K. STAUFFER

Bro. Robert K. Stauffer was the youngest of Edwin and Betty Stauffer's seven children and he, too, was a hemophiliac and contacted AIDS through transfusions. He had to quit his work at Stauffer Sheds last fall because of deteriorating health and has battled numerous health problems since then. He took his last breath on May 7, 1993, when he left this earth, while his wife and mother were by his side.

Bob gave his heart to the Lord at a young, tender age and was a member of the Lititz Dunkard Brethren Church. He was very sincere in his Christian life and had a great desire to share the Good News of salvation with others. He served one year at Torreon Navajo Mission and would have liked to have served on the mission field

away from home after marriage but health conditions hindered. Instead, home became his mission field and many people were impacted by the way Bob shared his faith and testimony. In his last days he freely talked of going Home, seeing Glen, Grandpa, and others gone on before.

Bob was married to Sheila Hostetler on January 28, 1989. The Lord blessed them with two children, Heather and Andrew. Heather turned two just the day before her Daddy died and Andrew will be one in June.

Glen and Bob will be greatly missed but Joyce and Sheila take comfort in the fact that God promises to be a Husband to the widowed and the Father of the fatherless. God continues to show Himself strong by supplying grace to sustain during this difficult time.

Also mourning their passing are two brothers; Galen of Bernville, Pennsylvania and Eddie of Lebanon, Pennsylvania. There are three sisters; Lucy, wife of Tim Siegrist, of Manheim, Pennsylvania, Sally, wife of Jim Meyers of Dallas Center, Iowa and Mary Lou, wife of Tim Kasza of Shelby, Michigan. Two grandmothers also remain; Emma Stauffer of Ephrata, Pennsylvania and Mary Keller of Manheim, Pennsylvania.

Many people were blessed and encouraged by Glen and Bob's acceptance of their condition even though they were innocent victims. Neither was known to ever complain about his lot in life. And we surely look forward to meeting them just inside the Eastern Gate over There.

The entire family feels deeply indebted to the whole Brotherhood as well as many other kind, caring people. The display of love and compassion was overwhelming and we want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the many, many prayers, cards, gifts, food, flowers, and the list goes on. Only God can begin to repay you for all you've done. Thanks again – your kind deeds have touched our hearts with His love. God bless you.

Sister Joyce and children
Sister Sheila and children
and all the rest of the family

NEWS ITEMS

THANK YOU

Just a note to thank everyone for all the birthday cards, money, stamps and prayers. I really appreciate everything you all have done for me. It has really helped alot. Please keep praying for us. May God richly bless you.

Thanks again,
Sister Linda Stitely

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
-------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

WALKING WITH GOD

O Master, let me walk with thee
In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me thy secret; help me bear
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move
By some clear, winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,
And guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me thy patience! still with Thee
In closer, dearer company:
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
In trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broadening way;
In peace that only thou canst give,
With thee, O Master, let me live.

- Washington Gladden

BREAD

"Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not?" Isaiah 55:2a.

Bread is considered the staff of life. Bread along with water will sustain life. That life will not be robust but it will exist. A person would not look forward to a diet of bread and water, but it would be better than no diet at all. Perhaps, it would, in the end, prove healthier than many of the prepared foods that men feast on today.

The "bread" that Isaiah writes of, can have two profitable applications. The first application concerns the material management of our lives. The other concerns the Spiritual focus of our living.

Bread is a necessity of life, so it can be equated with food, one of the prime needs of life. The thought that we would garner from Isaiah's statement would be that God is interested in the material and financial portion of our lives. He cares about how we handle business as well as our Spiritual affairs.

The common practice of men, today, is to spend money, even money that they do not have, for all manner of things. They do not limit their spending to what they actually need or what they can afford. Since they spend money that they do not have, they often are persuaded to buy those things which they do not really need. Their wants more often drive their choice of purchases than do their needs. Many of these purchases concern recreation, sports and amusement. Men are drawn away from a plain and simple life-style because they desire those things that are not necessities.

Modern advertising and marketing methods present the objects of their desire in a way that makes them think that they actually do

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need these luxuries. Their wants get control of their pocketbooks. Soon, by using credit and other alternative financial methods, they collect the things that destroy a plain lifestyle.

Finances can have a large impact upon how a person lives. God expects our finances to be used for that which will be an honor to Him and will provide a real need in each one's life. God calls for the elimination of the superfluous and luxurious. We can use the funds left over, when we do not buy these things to further His work. The extra money may be used to fund the Church's needs, to help missionaries, to help other worthy ministries, or to provide for the poor and hurting. Using our finances to buy that which is beyond our real needs is not the best use of our resources. When used only to please self and to gain status, our money is not being used to buy bread.

Just as financially, there are unneeded luxuries, so in the Spiritual life there are unnecessary activities that detract rather than add to the Spiritual life. To invest effort and labor in that which is nonproductive is not wise in financial dealings, nor is it Spiritually productive.

God has expressed His Word and Will in the Bible. He has given what is needed for a successful Spiritual life, if men will follow His instructions. Too often men will design some other courses that they think will please God. Rather than be sure, they go headlong into following their own program, while ignoring what God has counseled. Just as bread is necessary for physical life, so Spiritual bread is necessary for the Spiritual life. Jesus called Himself the Bread of Life. He established the Lovefeast service, which has as its highest element the communion service. That service consists of the bread and the cup. The communicant eats that bread in remembrance of the broken body of Jesus. To look to any other way, person or method for salvation is to "spend money for that which is not bread."

The bread used for the communion service is made without yeast. It is a flat, dry bread, that does not have a great appeal other than its symbolical application representing the body of Christ. Often Christians pursue that which is gaudy and popular, forgetting the things that might repel rather than attract. That which is Spiritual may not be attractive to the world around us, since the Spiritual can only be appreciated and understood by those who have received the Holy Spirit.

This bread does not contain yeast, or leaven, which points to the need for a Christian life that is not controlled and shaped by the leaven of this world. Sin can change and reshape a life from what God wants it to be, to what might look attractive in the world's eyes, but not to Him.

Bread is a necessity of the physical, financial and Spiritual life. It is important that the Christian's effort, desire and finances go for what is truly bread, not that which is merely physically desirable.

Are you spending your money only for that which is truly bread?

WHY HAVE YE DONE THIS?

"And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?" Judges 2:2.

At the time we are writing this, the newspapers have once again been full of accounts concerning another cult activity that ended in tragedy. To those who are caught in this type of error the question must be asked, "Why have ye done this?"

We believe one of the answers to this question is demonic influence. It is made clear in Holy Scripture that Satan often appears as an angel of light but in reality is as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. The influence of Satan and his demons may not always end in physical death but spiritual death, which is far worse.

A second reason that individuals are led into error is a lack of spiritual knowledge and understanding. Jesus Christ warned that such individuals as David Koresh would appear on the scene. In Matthew 24:4-5, He taught, "... Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many."

The third reason we believe to be a stumbling block to those caught in error is one man leadership. We believe there is great safety in the plural ministry. This is not to say that problems cannot arise in such a setting. We are well aware that many splits have been a result of personality conflicts within the plural ministry. However, history has shown that purity in doctrinal matters eroded when the plural ministry is traded for the one man, salaried ministry.

We believe God gives three guidelines in our opening verse that will enable us to avoid falling into the error of the cults. The first is "And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land." In II Corinthians 6:17 it is put this way, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." We were made aware through newspaper accounts that the Branch Davidians teachings included having weapons of warfare, being involved in rock music and immoral living, at least on the part of the one considered to be the leader. The earthly church, as a whole, has lost the Scriptural

teaching of nonresistance. We are not suggesting that everyone that allows, and even encourages, their members to be a part of the military is a cult. If they are truly born again and washed in the blood of the lamb they may even enter the gates of Heaven. God is the final judge in such matters. However, when those who once held to this Bible truth compromised and allowed their members to be a part of the military they headed in the wrong direction.

It is our conviction that rock music is Satanic in origin and that so called "christian rock" is a misnomer. We do not believe it is wrong to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. We appreciate good lively singing. We have attended meetings where plain individuals have clapped their hands and raised their hands in praise. If it is done in the Spirit we have no problem with such activity. But we believe we should also be able to appreciate the more solemn songs and worship. It is also our conviction that musical instruments were borrowed from the worldly system and were not a part of the New Testament worship. As we have said before, as long as we do not include musical instruments in our worship there is very little danger of so called "christian rock" entering in.

The moral problems within the earthly church have been well documented and publicized in recent years. We are convinced that the acceptance of Hollywood movies and now television by a large segment of the church has a negative influence on the morals of its membership.

The second thing God commands is "Ye shall throw down their altars." Many are worshipping at the altar of man made religion. We recently read a book concerning how blind individuals are able to do almost anything a person with sight can. The emphasis was not primarily "religious." However one of the things recalled was the arguments over bobbed hair and the playing of cards. There was the time that not only the plain people taught that women should have uncut hair. However, today, man-made religion has put its stamp of approval on short hair on women along with the fashions and fads of secular society.

The last thing that God says is, "but ye have not obeyed my voice." The question, "Why have ye done this?" could be asked in the positive as well as the negative. Why do we practice the things we do in the Dunkard Brethren Church? It is because we desire to obey the voice of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Living Word, as is given in the Holy Bible, the written Word.

We believe God is asking the earthly church, "Why have ye done this?" Why have you left your first love? Why do you ignore my commandments? Why are you ashamed to profess me before man? Why do you desire to live like the world? There is no doubt

that cultic activity is dangerous. But ALL DISOBEDIENCE TO THE WORD OF GOD will bring judgment.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

MIRACLES OF CHRIST AS RECORDED IN GOD'S WORD

11. Jesus Heals the Ear of Malchus

Luke 22:49-51

The setting for this miracle is touching. His life on earth was nearing the end, "And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the Mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him. And when He was at the place, He said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup (of suffering) from me; nevertheless not my will, but thine be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground."

After this earnest prayer He came to His disciples and found them asleep. I think He slightly scolded them when He said, "Why sleep ye? Rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation."

While He yet spake; behold a multitude led by Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss Him. (Not a kiss of love, but a kiss of betrayal.) Jesus said unto him, "Judas, betrayest thou the son of man with a kiss?"

Those around Him, who saw trouble coming, asked Jesus, "Shall we smite with the sword?" One of them smote the servant of the high Priest and cut off his right ear. And Jesus answered and said, "Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear and healed him."

Malchus was the name of the man whose ear was cut off. Jesus healed it. ANOTHER MIRACLE! If Jesus could perform such deeds with such afflictions, those afflicted will be void of them when they come forth on Resurrection Morning.

Jesus truly put to practice the GOLDEN RULE, SO SHOULD WE.

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, OH 44718

SIXTY YEARS AGO

June 15, 1933

CHRIST OUR SACRIFICE

C. W. O'Brien

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, wherever they went, offered sacrifices. These offerings were a most important part of the worship of God. When God through Moses, took His people out of Egypt where they had been in bondage, He gave them again laws in regard to offerings. The lambs to be offered must be without blemish, so that they would properly represent the perfect Son of God.

Under the Jewish ritual, if one had sinned and felt that he needed forgiveness he brought his offering to God, placing his hand upon the head of the victim, he confessed his sins, which were thus in a figure transferred to the offering. The life of the victim was then taken instead of his own life, which he had forfeited through sin. When the fulness of time came, God sent his Son into the world to be the divine sacrifice for sin. The blood of animals could not really take away sin, it could only prefigure the spilt blood of Christ, which was to be shed for sin.

When John the Baptist saw Jesus coming to him, he exclaimed, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." (John 1:29).

Year after year through long ages men had looked over their flocks, and selected the choicest lambs for sacrifice, but now God's Lamb had come. God had looked over His great flock and only one could be found that could redeem the world, and though He was His only begotten Son, God gave Him freely for the sins of the world.

Was Christ not a perfect sacrifice? No one has yet been able to find any fault in Him, even Pilate, who to please the enemies of Jesus, was forced to say, "Ye have brought this Man unto me as one that perverteth the people; and behold, I having examined Him before you and have found no fault in this Man touching those things whereof ye accuse Him." Then they led Jesus away to be crucified.

Well had the prophet exclaimed, "He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep dumb before the shearer, so He openeth not His mouth." (Isaiah 53:7).

Sinner behold your sacrifice! See Him fainting under the weight of the cross, on the way to Calvary. That little hill near Jerusalem was to become the greatest altar of sacrifice the world has ever known; the place where love conquered hate; the place to which

every sinner can look and say, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that He should give His Son to die that we should be called the sons of God." (John 3:1).

Nailed to the cross, suffering the most terrible anguish, for six hours He hung suspended between the heavens and the earth; and yet He prayed for His executioners, (Luke 23:34) and a mysterious darkness falling upon the world, with earthquake and rending rocks, drew from even the heathen Roman officer who stood by, the confession, "Truly this man was the Son of God." (Mark 15:39).

The physical pain which Jesus endured, though great, was but a small part of His suffering. To be rejected by His own people and to be delivered by them to the Romans to be put to death, caused Him intense grief. But more than everything else it was the sense of the sins which He bore for all the world which crushed Him and caused Him the bitterest anguish. It was the awful sense of sin which before, in the garden of Gethsemane, had caused Him to sweat as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. (Luke 22:39-46).

And now, though nailed to the rugged cross, suffering great physical pain, deserted by His own disciples and entirely given up to His enemies; surrounded by a mob led on by the chief priests and rulers who, while the film of death was gathering over His eyes, taunted and denied Him. It was the sense of His Father's absence that caused Him such overmastering grief, and forced from His lips the despairing cry, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" (Matt. 27:46).

To be forsaken of God, and experienced which He must obtain in order to become a perfect Saviour for guilty sinners this broke His great, loving heart and cut short His life; but the great sacrifice for sin was now made. The plan of salvation is sure because now complete, Christ, the Son of God, had died for man, the just for the unjust, the divine for the human. That which the sacrificial offerings had long pointed forward to was now a reality.

The offering of a lamb is now no longer required, but we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man. (Heb. 2:9). A worthy sacrifice has been provided by God Himself, and He will surely accept the offering which He has furnished.

The sacrifice is always ready. Wherever we are, whenever we will we can, by faith, bring this sacrifice before God in prayer and plead the merits of the Son of God in our own behalf. The promise is: "Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." (John 14:13).

HYMN HISTORY

"Just As I Am, Without One Plea"

Charlotte Elliott was mad at herself, her family and God. At thirty-three, when she should have been enjoying radiant health, she had become an invalid because of the strain of a musical and artistic education.

"If God loved me," she complained, "He would not have treated me this way. He would have dealt with me as I would deal with my brother and sister, or any other person I claimed to love."

This rebellious spirit not only poisoned her heart but put a strain on the life of the entire family. It was to try to mellow the soul of his talented daughter that her father, Mr. Charles Elliott, invited Dr. Cesar Malan, noted Swiss minister and musician, to be guest in their home at Westfield Lodge, Brighton, England, in May 1822. Malan, "the greatest name in the history of French hymnology," was seated at the dinner table with members of the Elliott family on May 9 when Charlotte gave vent to one of her typical emotional outbursts, condemning God for His cruelty to her, and criticizing her brother, Pastor Henry Ven Elliott, as well as his sister and father for their lack of respect for their distinguished guest. Her father excused himself and left the room with his son and second daughter.

Dr. Malan and Charlotte faced each other across the table. After a few tense moments of silence, he said, "You are tired of yourself, aren't you?"

"What do you mean?" she asked, angrily.

"You are holding to your hate and anger because you have nothing else in the world to cling to," he replied. "Consequently, you have become, sour, bitter and resentful."

"What is your cure?" she asked.

He said, "You need the faith you are trying to despise." Sensing an understanding heart, Charlotte soon unburdened herself, releasing the pent-up feelings she had been struggling to conceal for many years. Dr. Malan explained how God, as we know Him in Jesus, could help her find peace for her soul as well as her mind and body. Suddenly she saw herself as God knew her and was ashamed.

"Dr. Malan," she said, "I want to apologize for my disrespectful behavior during dinner and I want to ask your forgiveness. Also, I want your advice. If I wanted to become a Christian and to share the peace and joy you possess, what would I do? How would I go about it?"

"You would give yourself to God just as you are now," he explained, "with your fightings and fears, hates and loves, jealousies

and quick temper, pride and shame, and He would take them from you in proportion to faith, and put His great love in their place."

"Just as you are now," she repeated, and then added, "I would come to God just as I am. Is that right?"

"Exactly," he replied, "praying this prayer, "O God, I come to you just as I am, to be made over by you and to be used by you for your glory and your kingdom."

Fourteen years later, on the anniversary of the conversation, Charlotte, soon to be lovingly called "The Sunbeam of Brighton," received her annual letter from Dr. Malan. Reminiscing over the events of that meeting, and the wonderful change that had come over her life, she recalled his words, "Come just as your are," and her reply, "Just as I am, I come." While her brother and sister were away from home assisting in a bazaar for the benefit of St. Mary's School, Charlotte, now forty-seven, penned her spiritual autobiography in a seven-stanza poem which began:

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bid'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Her brother later remarked, "In all my preaching I have not done so much good as my sister has been permitted to accomplish by her one hymn, "Just As I Am."

She passed away at Brighton in her eighty-second year, in 1871, "in the full hope and triumph of the Gospel she has sung so long."

Used by permission:
Baker Book House
"Living Stories of Famous Hymns"
Sister Shirley Frick

SOUL WINNING – THE REAL WORK OF THE CHURCH

The GREATEST NEED in the church today, or any other day, is that of soul winning. The church needs people who are willing to talk about Christ and His Gospel. However, the kind of passion for souls as displayed by the first century Christians seems to be completely lacking in most congregations today. The early church was involved in DAILY evangelism. They "ceased not" to teach and preach Jesus as the Christ. Even when persecution came upon the church, "they therefore that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word." Acts 8-4.

Somehow, we have misplaced our values. It seems that many are more interested in impressing people than implanting principles.

Some, it seems, are afraid of offending folk with plain talk about the commands of the gospel. We must, however, get our values in perspective. Nothing is more valuable than a soul. (Matthew 16:26) Our personal popularity is worthless compared to the soul of a friend or relative! Jesus was not running a popularity contest and neither must we!

The mission of the Master is the mission of the church. Jesus said, "For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10). Soul winning is therefore the real work of the church. The various acts of worship as singing and praying are important, but the real work of the church is not passing the offering plate or ushering. These are helpful and necessary, but the work of the church is to seek the lost!

There is no such thing as a congregation where there is no work for everyone! There is something for every member of the body to do. (Ephesians 4:16). Each one can win one. This does not mean every member must teach a "cottage class." One can tell the story of Jesus on the job, at coffee break, at play, over the backyard fence, or in the privacy of the home. There are opportunities every day to influence someone for good and to direct one's thinking toward God and His Word. Our problem, oftentimes, is that we do not see and seize the opportunity.

We need to "think souls" as we go about the business of life. It would help us if we would think about people as souls that need to be saved. How can we win people to Christ? This question should always be upon our heart.

May we overcome fear and discouragement through constant prayer and persistent effort. Realizing the urgency and importance of soul sinning, let us not hesitate to speak to others concerning their need of salvation. Soul winning is the real work of the church!

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD #2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

House-to-House Talks

J. H. Moore

There is one period in my ministerial experience that I often think about with pleasure. I was then living in a new country, where one often had to ride for miles in going from one settlement to another. I worked during the week, but preached every Sunday, sometimes twice.

I had a monthly appointment in a settlement twelve miles from home. I often rode to this place on Saturday evening. The entire

route was through the woods, and on the way I passed but few houses. I usually traveled alone, and this gave me plenty of time to think and prepare some of my sermons. On horseback, in the woods, is a most excellent place for meditation. About trees there is something that is inspiring, and the interesting scenery is ever changing, while about the moving horse and preacher there is a harmony of action that is restful to the mind. They soon learn to understand each other and in time their confidence in one another becomes mutual. A more faithful creature never existed than the preacher's trusty horse.

Well, I would ride up to a plain house where the conveniences were few and the people poor, but everybody would come out to the gate to shake hands. One was made to feel welcome. In the evening the neighbors began coming in. Word had been sent around that the preacher would be there that night and would give a Bible talk. Some of these people would come a mile or two, most of them walking, and nearly all carrying lanterns. They gathered into a large room, sitting on anything that could be made to serve the purpose of a seat. Here were the fathers and mothers with their children, all anxious for this kind of a gathering.

The meeting was informal, in most every way, and everybody felt easy. I usually occupied a chair by the table. A few hymns were sung, a portion of Scripture read, and then we had prayer. It was like a large family around the family altar. Then another Scripture was read and I commenced my Bible talk. While making these talks I always sat. To the people it did not seem like preaching, it was just talking. It was a heart-to-heart talk; a talk where I could meet parents and children face to face, and have them near me while the old story was being told.

Perhaps the talk was about Abraham, the man of faith and destiny. Here I could sit and tell the story of the faithful man from the time he was a young man in Ur of Chaldea until his body was placed by the side of that of his wife in the cave at Hebron. My talk would last probably an hour, and then there was more singing and another season of prayer. Before dismissing I would ask about our next Bible talk when I came again. There was always some one ready to call for the next meeting.

One time a neighbor requested that the next meeting be held at his place. He had some friends that he would be pleased to have present. When the time came I had the privilege of occupying an old armchair, in an old-fashioned Southern house, warmed by a cheerful fire in the great fireplace. His neighbors and friends were there, for the meeting was in his house and he felt at liberty to invite them. This was probably the best meeting of the kind that we held in the neighborhood, for the surroundings were most interesting.

At the close of the services there was general handshaking. No one seemed in a hurry. It was a sort of a family affair, with religion mixed in, and the people somehow got no small amount of good out of it. The next day we would have regular preaching at the school-house near by. And thus the work continued from month to month.

Since then years have come and gone, but I have often thought that should it ever fall to my lot to engage in evangelistic work, in a new locality I would again introduce my Bible meetings, and in this way carry the Gospel into the homes of the people. I would give much attention to that class of teaching that would take me from house to house. On these occasions I would talk to the parents and the children, having them face to face, listening to the interesting story of the Bible. Probably we need more of this class of work. It brings the Gospel where the people are, and it is there that it makes the best impression on them.

OH, WHY SHOULD THE SPIRIT OF MORTAL BE PROUD?

William Knox

O why should the spirit of mortal be proud,
Like swift fleeting meteor, fast flying cloud,
A flash of lightning, a break of the wave,
He passes from life to his rest in the grave,
The leaves of the oak and the willow shall fade,
Be scattered around, and together be laid,
As the young and old, the low and the high,
Shall crumble to dust and together shall lie,
The infant a mother attended and loved,
The mother that infant's affection proved,
The father that mother and infant blessed,
Each, all, are away to that dwelling of rest,
The maid on her brow and cheek, in her eye,
Shone beauty and pleasure, her triumphs are by;
Alike from the minds of the living erased,
Are the memories of mortals who loved her and praised
The head of the king, that scepter has borne,
Brow of the priest, that miter hath worn;
The eye of the sage, and heart of the brave,
Are hidden and lost in depths of the grave,
The peasant, her lot was to sow and to reap,
Herdsman and herd, climbed up the steep;
Beggar, wandering in search of his bread,
Have faded away like the grass we tread,
Saint-enjoyed the communion of Heaven;
The sinner who dared to stay unforgiven;

The wise and foolish, the guilty and just,
 Have quietly mingled their bones in the dust
 So the multitude goes, like flower or weed,
 That withers away to let others succeed;
 So the multitude come, e'en those we behold,
 Repeat every tale that has often been told,
 For we are the same our fathers have been;
 See the same sights our fathers have seen;
 Drink the same stream, see the same sun,
 Run the same course our fathers have run,
 Tho'ts we're thinking our fathers did think,
 The death we're shrinking, father did shrink,
 To life we're clinging our fathers did cling,
 But speeds from us all like a bird on the wing,
 They loved – the story we cannot unfold;
 They scorned – heart of the haughty is cold,
 They grieved – but no wail from their slumbers will come;
 They joyed – but the tongue of gladness is dumb,
 They died – oh! they died – we, things that are now,
 That walk on turf that lies over their brow,
 Make in their dwelling a transient abode,
 Meet the things that they met on their pilgrimage road,
 Hope and despondency, pleasure and pain,
 Are mingled together in sunshine and rain,
 The smile and tear, the song and the dirge,
 Still follow each other, surge upon surge,
 'Tis the wink of an eye! 'tis the draught of a breath,
 From blossom of health to paleness of death,
 From gilded saloon to the bier and the shroud;
 Oh, why should the spirit of mortal be proud?

Submitted by Sister Ruth Snyder

OBITUARIES

LOWELL KREINER

Bro. Lowell E. Kreiner was born June 29, 1907 and departed this life on March 23, 1993, at the age of 85 years, 8 months and 28 days. Early in his life he accepted Christ as his Saviour and was baptized and became a member of the Orion Congregation, Dunkard Brethren Church.

He was united in marriage to Mildred Myers on December 6, 1930, and to this union were born four children. In 1953 Bro. Lowell was called to the deacons office in which he served faithfully the remainder of his life. For a number of years he was a delivery milkman, and later had the position of custodian of the Hoover High School.

He is survived by his companion of more than 62 years, a son, Ted of West Unity, Ohio, a daughter, Kathy Grishaber of North Canton, Ohio, ten grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, a sister, Wilma Besse of Uniontown, Ohio, a brother, Dwight of Suffield, Ohio. He was preceded in death by his two daughters, Jean Browning and Carol Piggot; also his parents, Sam and Emma Kreiner.

Services were conducted on March 31, by Elders H. Edward Johnson, Harley Flory and William Carpenter at the Karlo and Sons Funeral Home in North Canton, Ohio. Burial was in the North Canton Cemetery.

JENNIFER MILLER

Jennifer Kay Miller, daughter of Paula Jo Miller/Carpenter was born December 6, 1980 to Paula Miller and Thomas Murray and died March 31, 1993 in an automobile-train accident at the age of 12 years, 3 months and 25 days. She was the step daughter of Douglas Carpenter and step-granddaughter of Bro. John and Sis. Faye Carpenter.

MISTY CARPENTER

Misty Dawn Carpenter, daughter of Sherah Kerr and Douglas Carpenter was born August 5, 1977 and died April 1, 1993 from injuries in the same accident at the age of 15 years, 7 months and 26 days. She was the granddaughter of Bro. John and Sis. Faye Carpenter.

Double funeral services were held at 10:30, Tuesday, April 6, 1993 at the Pleasant Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church with Elder Dennis St. John and Elder Harley Flory officiating. Burial was in Floral Grove Cemetery, West Unity, Ohio.

We wish to thank all who were there to help share our sorrow and to help make it easier to bear. For all the cards, gifts and prayers, we can only thank you, but know that God will richly bless.

In Christian love,
Bro. and Sis. John Carpenter

NEWS ITEM

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

A special thank you to my friends who remembered me with a card shower on my 86th birthday on April 5th. I received over 100 cards from across the United States. There were so many kind words and wishes, and many had written of such wonderful memories of our times together. The richest of all birthday gifts is the love and kindness of my friends and family. May God richly bless each one, and keep you in His care.

In Christian love,
Sister Della Beeman

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 1993

July 4 - Death of John the Baptist - Matthew 14:1-14.

1. Who did Herod fear more than God?
2. Where did the disciples go to find comfort at John's death?

July 11 - Feeding the Multitude, Walking on the Water - Matt. 14:15-36.

1. How much does Jesus need from us to do great things?
2. What was the secret to Peter staying "on top" of the storm?

July 18 - Attitude of the Heart - Matthew 15:1-20.

1. Why did Jesus look "below the surface" when dealing with the Pharisees?
2. What does Jesus see as He looks into our hearts?

July 25 - "Great is thy Faith" - Matthew 15:21-39.

1. Why did Jesus reason with the woman as He did?
2. Why did Jesus not send the multitude away?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 1993

July 4 - Traditions - Matt. 15:1-14, II Thess. 2:12-17.

1. What are traditions and how are they passed to us?
2. Is it important that the traditions we keep rest on the authority of Scripture?

July 11 - Goodness of Youth - Ecc. 12:1-7, Luke 2:49, II Tim. 1:5, II Tim. 3:15.

1. What solid foundation will bless your youth? II Tim. 1:5.
2. Why is it so important to remember the Lord in your youth?

July 18 - Self Indulgence - Ecc. 2:1-26.

1. Why are temporal pursuits so unsatisfying?
2. What did Solomon finally find that was satisfying? Ecc. 12:13-14.

July 25 - Walking on the Sea - Matt. 14:22-36.

1. What was the secret to Peter staying "on top" of the storm?
2. Who should we look to in the storms of life?

Frank L. Reed
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BIBLE MONITOR

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JULY 1, 1993

NO. 13

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
-------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

LIVE FOR JESUS

Father, Mother, love your children
In a firm yet gentle way;
Don't neglect, provoke, discourage
Lest they turn from God away.

Yield completely to the Saviour
That His love your heart may fill.
Read the Bible with your children
That all may obey His will.

If you train your child for Jesus,
Oh, the heartache you'll be spared,
And your precious, godly children
Will praise God for folks who cared.

That the circle be unbroken
In that blessed Gloryland
Live for Jesus every moment –
Pray, believe, rejoice and stand.

- Wanda Robinson Hofrichter

JOB THE FATHER

We usually think of Job's sufferings and how he patiently dealt with them and his misdirected friends. However, there is more to Job. He was a righteous man. God described him to Satan as a perfect and upright man, who feared God and eschewed iniquity. The man whom God could hold up before Satan must have been a very wise and caring person.

He was not only the richest man in that part of the world, but he was also a man rich in good works. His riches were calculated in the great numbers of animals that he owned. He would have controlled a vast amount of land to be able to support this many animals. There were a great number of people who were a part of his household, so he had to provide for their wellbeing. The concern of his friends when they learned of his adversity shows that he had made a noble impression upon them. Job had lived so as to have gained a good reputation among the people who knew him, but he even impressed God enough that He held him up before Satan as a perfect man.

For all of the good works that Job had done for his servants and his friends, his greatest efforts were in behalf of his children. Job was a father who cared about his children. He was concerned about their Spiritual well-being as well as their physical, social, educational, financial, material, and mental well-being. Although his sons were old enough to have their own homes, he was still concerned about them. He was concerned when they had feasts each day, moving from the home of one to another each day of week, until all seven sons had had an opportunity to be host. Job was also concerned when his three daughters also became

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involved in these feasts. He was concerned enough to send word to the children that they should be careful how they conducted themselves. He wanted them to be sanctified in their activities. He wanted them to set themselves apart from other people's activities. Fearing that his warnings would not be enough, he made it his continual practice to offer burnt-offerings for his children in case they did sin. He continued to pray for them. He was very concerned as he saw them become a little too close to the surrounding world.

We know that each person, including our children, has to make his individual choice about how he will live his life. No other can live his life for him. No one can cover another person's sin. Each person has to make Jesus Christ his personal sacrifice for his sin. This is God's intention. Job was right to pray for his children. Children of all ages are the logical recipients of their parent's desire to pray. Children have various needs as they grow from babyhood to manhood. Each step in their development is a time when prayer is in order.

Job was much like the father of the prodigal son. They each were concerned about their child's lifestyle. The father of the prodigal probably has a pretty good idea of his son's riotous living after he left home. Job only suspicioned that through carelessness, his sons might be guilty of some sin. Each was concerned. Each remained open to receiving the son back, although he had sinned. The father of the prodigal must have prayed much for his misdirected son. He continued to look for his return and had a ring, shoes and a robe awaiting that glad homecoming.

The father of the prodigal pictures the reception that God has in store for those who will abandon their wayward course and return to the Father. Job also gives us a picture of a prayerful and solicitous God, wishing that His children would exercise all due care in their living so they would not fail to live as He would want them to. God wants the erring to come unto Him in confession and repentance. He wants His family to live as those who are the blood-bought righteous.

The prodigal's father, Job and God, all, were concerned about their children. They would pray for and draw them Homeward. Christian parents should have the same desire for their families. Children are not brought into the world to seek out their own ways, Spiritually. Parents expect to provide for the physical, emotional, and material needs of their children, but many do not really try to provide the Spiritual underpinnings that are so necessary. Children should be trained within their natural families so they can move very easily from the natural to the Spiritual family of God. If

parents would have as great a concern for their children as Job, they would see greater desire amongst their children to be a part of God's family.

Job was a good man. His concern went beyond his own needs. He was very concerned about his children. Are you as concerned about yours?

THE DISTURBING DIAGNOSIS

On the return trip from "Retreat" last year, I wounded the heel of my left foot. I really didn't think too much about it, but it hurt all the next day – all the way back to York County, Pennsylvania. And it kept on hurting for the next two weeks! So, after lots of encouragement from my dear wife, I decided to go see her doctor about it.

Now when you go to the doctor for anything, the first thing you do (at least at this doctor) is to wait a long while. That's specifically designed (I think) so that your blood pressure can go up while you're mentally blocking the things off your "to-do list" that you won't be able to get done because of the time spent waiting in the doctor's office.

Eventually the nurse calls you, and you are asked to step on the scales – that horrid machine that tells it like it is! Then the nurse takes you into the examination room, and takes your blood pressure. And right then and there is where I knew I was in trouble. When the doctor came in, he took twenty minutes to talk to me and check about my blood pressure, and less than five minutes to check out the heel of my left foot, which is why I was there in the first place! And I watched as the doctor wrote this disturbing diagnosis across my chart: "HYPERTENSION."

Now I don't think that diagnosis fits me at all! I don't think I am a very "hyper" sort of person – except maybe when I'm leading singing! And I don't feel like I'm all wound up and full of tension – at least, not except right before preaching a sermon! So I didn't think that the diagnosis of "HYPERTENSION" really fit me at all!

Now there's another doctor that made a disturbing diagnosis about me, and He made this diagnosis about you, too!

Here are a few verses from Romans 3. Let these words sink in. "As it is written, There is none righteous, no not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are

in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Whew! Am I really that bad? Must I accept that disturbing diagnosis about my condition?

Are you really that bad? What are you going to do about that disturbing diagnosis?

What options do we have when we don't like a diagnosis that a doctor gives? There are several ways I could have handled the news about my disturbing diagnosis.

1. I could have gone to another doctor and gotten a second opinion. (By the way, there are times when it's very necessary to get a second opinion!)

2. I could simply ignore the disturbing diagnosis and pretend the condition doesn't exist. The result of ignoring this diagnosis about hypertension could be a stroke; or a major organ, such as heart or kidneys, could be affected. Early death would be the ultimate result of ignoring the diagnosis of "hypertension."

3. I could believe the doctor about my condition, but refuse to do anything about it. I could have an attitude of, "So what? It can't hurt me!" I could just ignore his recommended diet and change in life style.

4. I could accept the diagnosis of my doctor and choose to follow his recommendations.

Now, what do we do about the disturbing diagnosis about our condition which comes from the "Divine Physician?"

1. We can refuse to believe the bad news about our sinful condition and go for a second opinion. If we don't like what one preacher says, we can go ask another preacher! We can easily find a preacher who will give us the assurance that we're doing just fine the way we are!

If you don't like what the Bible says about your condition, you could try a different "Holy Book." For example, you could try the Koran, which would tell you how to get to Heaven by your good works. And it would also assure you that if you were cast into Hell by Allah, you would only stay there until you paid for your sins, and then you would eventually end up in Heaven.

You could also try the false doctrine of the Jehovah's Witnesses, which would have you believe that if you end up in Hell, you would instantly be destroyed or annihilated, and cease to exist. Or, you could try one of the Eastern Religions, which would tell you how to live so you would come back in your next life in a "higher order" than you are now. In any case, if you choose to reject what God says about you in His Holy Word, there are plenty of places to which you can go for a "second opinion!"

2. You can choose to ignore the diagnosis that you are a depraved sinner in need of a Savior, and just pretend that the condition doesn't exist.

3. You can believe the disturbing diagnosis about your condition, but refuse to do anything about it, or simply "put off" doing anything about it. After all, the "Deceiver" lies to you. "There's always tomorrow!"

4. You can accept God's diagnosis about your condition and follow His remedy for your condition.

The doctor prescribed a remedy for my condition. In fact, he prescribed several remedies, plus some tests to determine the extent of my condition. Then he nonchalantly handed me a paper and told me that I needed to go on an 1800 calorie per day diet, but until I lost twenty pounds, I needed to be on a 1500 calorie per day diet! No big deal! Just a MAJOR change in lifestyle and attitude, and in my EATING HABITS. Also, he told me to get more exercise.

I was ordered to come back for a Blood Pressure check next Thursday and Monday – and come back to see the Doctor in two weeks! Talk about a change in life style! My calendar was booked completely solid for the next two and one-half weeks! And now the doctor wanted me to interrupt my important activities to come in and get my blood pressure checked, as if I didn't have anything else to do!

The Divine Physician has also prescribed a Remedy for our disturbing diagnosis. God's remedy for our "human condition" is found in Romans 3:23-25. "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God."

We can be justified freely by God's grace through faith in the blood of Jesus Christ as the payment for our sins! God has already done an X-Ray on us! He can see "clear through" our beings! And the diagnosis is very disturbing. We are sinners, in need of a Savior. But God has been aware of the problem, and He has provided the solution to the problem by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, down to earth to live a perfect life, and then to be killed as a sacrifice, to be buried, and to come back to life again!

I have stuck to my diet, and the scales shows it! Although I didn't lose a lot all at once, the scales finally showed that I lost the twenty pounds. And I'm very glad that my blood pressure's OK! I was NOT ready to go on medication for that!

But, in order to accomplish this, there was a need for a change in life style, diet, attitude about food, and exercise. I have to stay

disciplined. I can no longer eat whatever I see! I also need to develop a new attitude about temperance: Abstain totally from things harmful – which before meant things like cigarettes, alcoholic beverages, and illegal drugs. But now, the list includes: salt, fat, and sugar – the three new enemies of my Christian life!

Also, a part of temperance is using moderation even with the things that are good for me! Before this experience, my attitude was, "More is better." For example: if something tastes good, then more is better! Now, I have to use measuring cups and a little scale to weigh my "mini-portions" of food! Instead of the theory of "more is better," I found out that "more will kill me!" I need to redo my thinking about what that really better way is – "Just enough for maintenance!"

After we come to the Savior, there will be a change in life style. We will want to serve Him and do all that He desires us to do out of a heart full of love for Him! It won't be drudgery, and it won't be legalism. Rather, our change in life style will be out of a heart of love and appreciation for who Jesus is, and what He has done for us.

When I left the doctor's office, I discovered that he had the audacity to charge for an extended office visit, which lightened my wallet by \$60.00!!! Then I really had HYPERTENSION!

I'm glad that the prescription for the remedy of the disturbing diagnosis of our human condition doesn't cost us a lot of dollars, or I couldn't afford it! We cannot obtain the remedy for our souls by paying \$60.00! There are no pills prescribed! And no lifetime of good works will get us into Heaven! We need to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, then we can be justified through faith in His blood.

Remember, There are several things you can do about YOUR DISTURBING DIAGNOSIS.

1. Refuse to believe the diagnosis.
2. Look for another opinion about your condition, or search for another remedy. (You'll never find another TRUE remedy!)
3. Ignore the diagnosis.
4. Accept the diagnosis and the remedy, but refuse to do anything about your condition, or "put off" doing anything about it until later.
5. Or, you can act on God's recommendation and put your faith in the blood of Jesus Christ so that His righteousness will be appropriated to you by the Holy Spirit of God!

Which option do you choose?

MIRACLES OF CHRIST AS RECORDED IN GOD'S WORD

12. Second Draught of Fishes

John 21:6

John 21:6, "And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes."

Jesus was a fisherman of fishes. He also, was a fisher of men. I find nowhere in the scripture that Jesus fished with a net or hook and line. Never the less, He knew where the fish were.

With that knowledge, by His direction the fishermen, doing as He asked them, caught great catches, to the extent that on one occasion, the boat was so full of fish, it began to sink.

Jesus, on one occasion, saw men out fishing on the sea. He called them to come and He would make them fishers of men. They left their nets and followed Jesus. He taught them how to become fishers of men. He sent them forth to fish for men.

Complying with Jesus' requests, we will always be the gainer.

The night before this miracle took place, the disciples somewhat vexed, entered into a ship. They fished all night and caught nothing.

When morning was come, Jesus was standing on shore, but the disciples did not know Him. Then Jesus saith unto them, "Have you any meat?" They answered Him, "No."

This brings us to verse six. After a long night fishing with no success, they cast their nets on the right side. Then is when they had their nets so FULL of fish that they were unable to draw in their nets.

Jesus guided them to the supply of fish they needed. He did not put them in the boat. The fishermen had their part to do.

It was a miracle. In nearly every miracle or healing, Jesus did His part. The people had to do their part.

So it is with salvation. Jesus shed His blood and gave His life on the cross, but we must be baptized and believe in and have faith in Him, to be saved.

Brother Paul R. Myers
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Canton, OH 44718

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

Revelation 13:4, "And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?"

Revelation 15:3-4, "And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest."

As we write this we are once again nearing the time when we will celebrate the birth of America, the homeland of the majority who will be reading this. In many gatherings, some within church walls, will be heard saying the words, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. And to the Republic, for which it stands. One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

While many would place the beginning of America at the arrival of the Pilgrims, in reality the nation had its beginning with the Revolutionary War. Our Brethren forefathers recognized this and refused to take a loyalty oath which brought them persecution. It is interesting that three synonyms listed for the word "allegiance" are "subjection", "obedience" and "loyalty". We hope the time never comes when an American flag will be found within the walls of a Dunkard meeting house. Personally, we do not believe that we should ever pledge allegiance to the flag.

Who are we in subjection to? Is it to the Lord Jesus Christ, God the Son, King of saints? Are we willing to follow Him as He instructs us, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight,..."? Do we hear Him as He teaches, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's?"

To what do we give our obedience? Is it to the Holy Scriptures? We believe the Apostle Paul realized the difference between obedience and giving honor. Before we can follow Holy Scripture we must rightly divide the Word of truth. How are we to understand the instructions to "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers?" Does this mean, as many teach, that when the government commands that you take a human life you are to obey? The Apostle Paul, through the Holy Spirit, has already answered this for us in Romans 12:17-19, "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath; for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." Many who profess to be Christians give more of their allegiance to the National Rifle Association than to the Word of God! "As much as lieth in you," refers to the power of the Holy Spirit within us. He can give us the power to live a life of nonresistance if we allow Him to. We will

never understand all the whys of life. The early Church was not exempt from persecution. Paul lost his life at the hand of Nero whom he called "the minister of God."

On the other hand, we are not to disobey government for personal gain. "Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour." We are not responsible for what our taxes are used for. It is hard to do so, and we confess that we do not always do so, but we should pay our taxes without complaining. We should try to obey all the laws of the land that are not contrary to the laws of God, no matter how stupid they may appear to us.

To whom do we give our loyalty? Is it to the Church? There are those who say that we must worship the Lord Jesus Christ and not the Church. One of the reasons the earthly church is in such a bad shape is that her members are not loyal to what she is to stand for. To say that we give our loyalty to the Church is not to say that we go along with every decision that is made.

Can we truly say that we pledge our allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Scriptures and the Church? The three must be cohesive. They should never disagree. You can not worship the dragon and the beast and give allegiance to these three at the same time. The dragon is symbolic of Satan and the beast is symbolic of the pleasures of this world and its rules of conduct. The cry today is, "Who is able to make war with him?" In other words, "The Church must compromise to survive!" Let us sing the song of Moses the servant of God. Power over Egypt, symbolic of this world, through the power of God. Let us sing the song of the Lamb. Power over Satan and sin through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. "All nations shall come and worship before thee," but many will worship in vain. If we do not give God our full allegiance now, it will be too late then.

Will you not pledge your allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ today? Accept salvation through His shed blood on Calvary. Be willing to obey the Holy Word of God, the Bible, (King James Version in English), and be faithful to the Church of the Living God.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

SIXTY YEARS AGO

July 1, 1933

CHRISTIANITY VS. MODERN LIBERALISM

J. H. Beer

(I Cor. 15:1-8) "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and

wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time." When you get underneath the peculiarity of expression used everywhere today to the real underlying issue, you discover that the redemptive Christian religion is being attacked within the church by a totally different type of religious thought and life, by a modern non-redemptive religion which is attacking Christianity at its root and is called by various names. It is called Modernism. It is called Liberalism. By what ever name the movement may be called, the root of the movement is found in naturalism, the denial of the entrance of any creative power. Let me quote from a fundamental chart. God has no existence apart from the universe and never had, the latter is eternal. There never has been a creation. God, infinite and eternal energy – not a person, such teaching denies the personality of God, and His work of creation. (Gen. 1:1) "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, ..." (II Tim. 3:16).

Dear friend and reader, is it not safer to follow the One whom the word tells us that God the Father sent into the world to save, (John 3:16-17.) A time to reaffirm faith. I have come to the conclusion that we have reached a time when we must reaffirm our faith in things that are absolutely essential to Christian faith; and one of these is the virgin birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There has been for years a wide spread effort to set aside authority of God's word exalting the writings of men to a level of the book of God, in other cases they would bring down the book of God to a level of the books of men, in either case the effect is the same, the authority of the word of God is destroyed.

Reasons for faith in the virgin birth. I want to give you some simple reasons why I believe the virgin birth. First of all the records of His birth are stamped with the seal of heaven. When you read the stories of Matthew and Luke of the virgin birth of Jesus you recognize a touch that stamps them as divine. And then again, I believe in that story of that birth for the same reason that Matthew did. He believed it was the fulfilment of prophecy made 750 years before, "A virgin," said God to Isaiah, "shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel." (Isa. 7:14, Luke 1:26-35)

Modernism teaches a virgin birth and a literal resurrection are no essential part of Christian faith, they hold that recorded miracles of Christ are merely legendary exaggerations of events that are entirely explicable from natural causes. "Such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ." (II Cor. 11:13)

These ministers of liberal theology are using their scholastic education trying to disprove the truthfulness of God's holy word. With all their fault finding and criticism, they have not disproven one single miracle of Christ to be untrue. It is nothing less than modern infidelity within the church trying to destroy and bring reproach upon the cause of Christ, who by their profession are expected to uphold. (Jude 1:4) "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."

The new birth. This work of Christ is applied by the Holy Spirit of God in the new birth, you will hear very little about the new birth in modern preaching, but at the center of Christianity are the words, "ye must be born again."

HYMN HISTORY

"Master The Tempest Is Raging"

"God does not care for me or mine," said Mary Ann Baker, rebelliously. "This particular manifestation of what they call "divine providence" is unworthy of a God of love."

Word had just come from the south that her beloved brother had passed away after suffering many months from a long and lingering illness. She described him as "a young man of rare loveliness and promise of character." Victim of the same disease that had already claimed the lives of his father and mother, young Baker left Chicago and traveled a thousand miles from home in the fruitless search for a climate that would heal better than the damp cold winters to which he was accustomed. But his condition grew worse instead of better, and adding to his misery, was the fact that his favorite sister was bedridden herself back home in Chicago and could not come to look after him in his final, fatal illness. For two long weeks telegraph wires carried messages back and forth between brother and sister, before the last telegram came, telling of his death.

"I have always tried to believe on Christ and give the Master a consecrated life," she said, "but this is more than I can bear. What have I done to deserve this? What have I left undone that God should wreck His vengeance upon me in this way?"

But, as the weeks passed, God Himself as she learned to know more of Him through Jesus, began to still the tempest in what she called her "unsanctified heart." Gradually she came to realize that God is always a loving Father, whether we are well or sick, rich or poor, and whether we succeed or fail, live or die. A deeper, richer faith and more sincere trust took possession of her, and began to transform her from a rebellious daughter into an obedient and loving child.

It was at this time, in 1874, that Pastor H. R. Palmer asked her to write several songs on the Sunday School lessons for that particular year. The theme for one of the Sundays was "Christ Stilling the Tempest." The scripture lesson was taken from Mark 4:37-39, and contained these familiar words, "And he arose and rebuked the wind and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased and there was a great calm."

She hesitated to try to express the majesty of that scene in an original poem since it had been done so superbly more than fourteen hundred years before by St. Anatolius. A translation of this hymn was found in many hymnals. It began with these lines:

Fierce was the wild billow, Dark was the night;
Oars labored heavily, Foam glimmered white
Trembled the mariners, Peril was nigh;
Then saith the God of God, "Peace! It is I!"

But out of her own experience of tragedy she had learned that oftentimes Christ stills the troubled heart rather than, or as much as, the troubled sea, and that possibly the miracle of Jesus had changed the frightened disciples as much as the elements of nature. That had been the case with her. And with that in mind she began to write:

Master, the tempest is raging, The billows are tossing high;
The sky is o'er shadowed with blackness, No shelter or help is nigh.
Carest thou not that we perish? How canst thou lie asleep,
When each moment so madly is threatening, A grave in the angry
deep?

When she finished, she had three stanzas and a chorus, for which Dr. Palmer himself composed the music that same year.

The hymn was first published in "Songs of Love for the Bible School" but did not achieve its deserved popularity until seven years later.

James A. Garfield had been President of the United States just four months when he left the White House enroute to his college class reunion at Williams College, in 1881. A disappointed office-seeker, Charles Guiteau, struck him down with an assassin's bullet as he was walking to his train through the station in Washington, D.C. For weeks he hovered between life and death, finally passing

away September 19, 1881. During these trying weeks, people re-discovered "Master the Tempest Is Raging" and Christians throughout the country sang it over and over again as they prayed for the life of their President. From that time on it was printed and reprinted in songbooks and hymnals and won for itself a permanent place in the life of the Church.

The author "grew in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ," until she could truthfully say, in vivid contrast to the bitterness of her rebellious years, "God's way is the best!"

Used by permission Baker Book House
 "Living Stories of Famous Hymns"
 Selected by Sister Shirley Frick

MARRIAGE

NOECKER - WAGNER

The wedding of Brother David Wagner, son of Daniel and Thelma Wagner, and Sister Mona Noecker, daughter of Sister Marie Noecker was solemnized May 22, 1993. Their address will be: Galilean Home Ministries, Inc., P.O. Box 880, Liberty, Kentucky 42539-0880.

NEWS ITEMS

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

The Englewood Congregation heartily invites all who can to join us in our Revivals. The date is July 18 through 25. If the Lord is willing, Brother Michael Wray will be our Evangelist.

August 29 was chosen for our Harvest Meeting. Bro. Tom St. John has consented to be our speaker.

Sister Naomi Frick, daughter of Glen and Shirley Frick, felt the need of serving her Lord and chose May 23, 1993 for her birth date to be born again into God's Kingdom. Praise the Lord!

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Shrewsbury Congregation is looking forward to our Revival Meetings, and invite you to come. An eight day Revival Meeting is planned from August 1 through 8, at 7:30 each evening. Bro. Henry Walker from the Pleasant Home Congregation, California will be our evangelist. Pray and come worship with us.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

The Swallow Falls Congregation is looking forward to another revival in its 67th year since its organization in 1926. Bro. Paul Hartz, Palmyra, Pennsylvania has been chosen to be the evangelist. The meetings will run from August 13 through 22, with Lovefeast on Saturday the 21st. Examination Service will be at 3:00 and services each evening at 7:30. Please pray for Bro. Hartz and the meetings that God's Word will bring forth fruit for eternity and that our little congregation will be faithful in these last sinful, trying times when the pressures of the world and Satan are crowding in and about God's people on every side.

Sister Ruth Snyder, Cor.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

"I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely." Rev. 21:6.

You are invited to revival meetings at Dallas Center, August 13 through 22. The Lord willing, Bro. Tom St. John, Alvordton, Ohio will be the evangelist.

Services begin at 7:30 each week night. All day services are planned for August 21 and 22 with services beginning at 10:45 Saturday morning and Lovefeast services that evening.

Pray for these meetings.

Sister Becky Funk, Cor.

BROADWATER CHAPEL, MARYLAND

The Lord willing, Broadwater Chapel will have a four day Revival Service, running July 29 through August 1, 1993. Brother Virgil Leatherman will be our evangelist. Come and worship with us.

Sister Lavona Sines, Cor.

THANK YOU

I praise God and thank all the Brethren and Sisters for their prayers, cards, letters, flowers, phone calls, visits, food and gifts during my present illness and convalescence.

A special thank you to the beloved Brethren who held services for me in my home, sixty-eight miles from the church. Thirty-seven Brethren and Sisters attended. Praise Him!

May God abundantly bless you, each one.

In Christian Love,
Sister Lelah Belle Souder

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
-------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HE LEADS ME

I have a Savior, so divine,
To lead me where I go.
And though my way I cannot see,
Still He the way does show.

He leads me in the narrow path
And even takes my hand
To guide me where the way is dark,
O'er this strange pilgrim land.

He shelters me and gives me food
For body, soul, and mind.
With what I have I am content,
For oh! my Lord is kind!

I thank Him for all the blessings
That He on me bestows.
He knows my needs before I ask,
And my cup overflows.

- Irene Stout

THE MARKERS OF LIFE

There are several special events that happen during a lifetime. These markers happen in all lives, even those considered dull and uneventful. These seemingly uneventful happenings are important to that person and of interest to others.

Obviously, the first important marker is birth. Each birth is a fresh indication of God's love and concern for mankind. That new life speaks of God's creation of man and woman. Each new life celebrates the power and care of God, as He brings together the special qualities of each of the parents into the conception and birth of a new person. Because men have lost their vision of God, life is destroyed even in the womb. Generations come and go; the God-given process of conception and birth goes on.

Birth is an important marker because it begins the time allotted to us on this Earth. We are given this time to prepare ourselves for eternity. We can choose either to use this time to please God or we can ignore, anger, or displease Him. This marker ushers us into the one opportunity we have to prepare for an eternity to be spent with Him.

School provides other markers in our young lives. As we grow and develop, especially intellectually, we move from one level of schooling to another. Each of these graduations is a marker. Each carries with it an honor and a responsibility. As we progress from one level to another, we should be preparing, not only for productive lives, but also so we can know God's Word better. Education should prepare us to be edified and edifying.

Marriage is a marker of great importance in life. God instituted marriage for the well being of the family. Marriage is not only for

THE BIBLE MONITOR

July 15, 1993

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the reproduction of the species, it also is for the nurturing and care of the total family. The family that is produced is a small sample of the total family of God. Marriage is a sacred institution. It is not to be entered into lightly. It is a lifelong dedication of two people to each other. It is not to be a trial or a fantasy, nor an escape from the grievances of home or parents. It is a serious commitment.

There are markers that concern the work done throughout life. There may be awards or other note taken of work that is well done. There is the satisfaction of doing even a small job well. There is an honor in doing the job that others are not willing to do, or the job that others consider too difficult. The rewards may be internal rather than public but these markers are important to us.

The most serious and most important marker in any life is the time of decision, when the choice is made to accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and to unite with the Church. This marker identifies us as a child of God. When this choice is made there needs to be a whole-hearted decision to go all the way with God. It cannot be a half-hearted choice, that will evaporate in the face of opposition or temptation. This marker requires a special dedication. It cannot be a decision of short duration, that soon erodes away and the marker is lost so none will know such a decision was ever made.

The final marker of this life is the last line on the tombstone. The date of death marks a time of separation. Death can be an enemy or a friend. God has put the desire for life within each one, so none would carelessly risk destroying his own life or that of others. For some death holds great terror because they have not chosen Jesus Christ as their Saviour. Others can look at death without fear for they have chosen wisely and have lived well.

The short season of life that is granted to each person affords each the opportunity to use it either to please self or God. It is a testing time to see what the response of each one will be to the proffered terms of salvation. Each of the markers of life point out the boundaries of our choices.

The children of Israel were warned to observe the boundaries that had been set for them in the division of their land. The landmarks that were set to keep each within his own inheritance, so none would wander into the fields of the fatherless or unbelievers. Landmarks have been set through out the Bible for our benefit. These landmarks include the ordinances which draw our minds to Spiritual subjects. Other landmarks are the doctrines that set the boundaries of our beliefs and practices. Landmarks show us how to live out the teachings we have been given through the Bible. These boundaries of discipline help us be the best disciples possible. Hopefully that discipline would be self-imposed, if not then it would be by the Church.

In thinking of the markers of your life, do you see them as aids in living for God? Do you have God's landmarks set as the landmarks of your life?

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Living on the Mountain

What a blessing it is to be able to live on the mountain of life rather than down in the deep, dark valley. God allows us to see the view from the top if we just look up... and out... and onward down the narrow road to eternity.

As God's people, we are a cross section of humanity from all around the nation... but we all have the same goal. That goal is to know more about Jesus and how to better serve Him and love Him. Even though we are living in the most decisive years in history, and even though the hour is strategic in the prophetic scheme of God, never has the light been brighter on the horizon. We move closer and closer to the brightness of the New Jerusalem. Our dedication to the Lord in this time is of great importance.

Longfellow wrote, "Humanity, with all its fears, with all its hopes for future years is hanging, breathless on thy fate." And what is our fate? In the age of humanism, we are told that our world is made up of mass, energy and motion. The agnostics and secular world is claiming that Christianity doesn't fit the facts of life. They refuse to admit that any supernatural power outside of nature exists. On the other hand, our life has great meaning because of the supernatural... because God created life and sustains it. We don't talk about cosmic consciousness... we talk about a living Saviour. The world talks of a scientific "god" that can be identified with nature and can be controlled by man. We understand God is sovereign and in total control of this universe... and of our lives.

We are living in a time when there is more education and greater mental capacity of men than any time in history. We have learned the answers to many questions about our universe. Custom-made humans and genetic surgery do not seem unrealistic to us anymore. Yet, secular man still cannot answer satisfactorily the basic questions that life contains... such as, what is life? It almost seems like people around the world are ignoring totally the inevitability of death and eternity. Their whole life and energy is being spent in building a heaven on earth for themselves. Do we get caught up in this perspective?

We are living in what I call the pre-tribulation tribulation. Millions of people in the world are suffering from malnutrition and even starvation and yet people continue to spend billions of dollars on recreation and useless trinkets every year. The world's churches

are preaching a materialistic religion... ignoring the fact that heaven is real... and so is hell.

The world is trending toward a type of religion but it is denying the power of the living God. If Jesus can be kept on the human level, He can be controlled. Jesus the Man is not nearly so disturbing or threatening as Jesus the God.

Christians, we are on this earth to prepare for eternity. If we understand this fact, our whole life will have a different perspective. We will be constantly climbing... climbing up the mountain... until we reach that City called the New Jerusalem. We **MUST UNDERSTAND** that no philosophical system ever devised by man will ever come near to the truth which is found in God. Man's systems will always keep us in the lonesome valley.

Let's not play little religious games any longer. Let's not just try to convince each other and the world that we are spiritual. Let's truly **BE** the maximum Christians, Christ can make us to be. Religious motions are only spiritual games.

The world events are fitting into the divine pattern for Christ's return. We must be on the mountain top looking up. We must make an honest effort to face situations and facts as they are in the world today and offer a Christ centered alternative to a world that is hostile to the love of Christ. We have that responsibility... to ourselves... to others... to the Lord. Live up... up on the mountain. Look up... up to the One who will give you peace and happiness in these decisive years on planet Earth.

Brother Len Wertz

CARNAL CHILDREN

Everyone likes little children. They are so cute, and everyone enjoys their antics. But little children have certain traits that are often obnoxious to adults. Children say hateful things to each other. They are often jealous of each other and often fear that other children will get something they do not have. They are afraid that other little ones will achieve greater success than themselves. They fear that others will be looked up to more than they would be. Some children want Mother to take their side instead of the others. They see the faults in others but never see their own. Some children will punish other little ones for things they have done, not realizing that they are just as guilty. They want others to see their viewpoint, but they are unwilling to see the viewpoint of others.

Those of us in the church often take on the same characteristics. Should spiritual children of God have the same traits as carnal children? Should we bite and devour one another, (Galatians 5:15)

or should we esteem the other above ourselves, (Phil. 2:3) in honor preferring one another. (Romans 12:10) I Corinthians 6:11 says, "... but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." In I Corinthians 13 and countless other places we conclude that it is impossible to love God and hate our brother.

Romans 3:10 says there is none righteous, no not one. In verse 23 it says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Chapter 12, verse 18 says, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." Because the 19th verse says, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. None of us are better than the other. It is not up to us to judge or punish our brother, because it is God that settles all accounts.

If we see another brother in sin, we must first realize that if it were not for the grace of God we could easily be in the same situation. Secondly we should humble ourselves and pray. Thirdly, we should go speak to the person in Christian love. If he hears you, you have saved another brother from falling. ("Now unto HIM that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you FAULTLESS..." Jude 24) We are faultless through Jesus Christ and not any merits of our own.

The Lord's Prayer tells us (in Matthew 6:12) that when we pray we should ask God to forgive our debts AS WE FORGIVE our debtors.

Back in the time of the Judges (17:6) "Every man did that which was right in his own eyes." Let us not judge each other in our own eyes but rather allow the Word of God to judge.

What does it take for a mother to disown her children? If mothers love all their children with their many differences and are human, how much more patience must God have with our differences, different convictions, likes and dislikes. Red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in His sight. Even in sin, God is not willing that any should perish. (II Peter 3:9).

In the parable of the lost sheep, found in Matthew 18:12-13, the shepherd, even though ninety-nine were safe in the fold, went out into the stormy wilderness to save that one little lamb that had gone astray.

Let us pray that Christ will forgive our sins and allow us to be forgiving one to another. May He unite us with perfect love in the harmony of the Word of God.

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CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANITY

Galatians 1:4, "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father."

II Timothy 4:10, "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica;..."

The primary dictionary definition for "contemporary" is "living or happening in the same period." A more general definition would be "keeping up with the times."

Our opening verse tells us that Jesus Christ "gave himself for our sins." If we follow one element of contemporary Christianity we will come to the conclusion that this is not really all that important. In the first place, according to their theory, all religions have some part of the whole of truth and are various ways to reach God. We are told that some have taken the blood of Christ out of their hymn books. Others still sing about the blood but refuse to preach or teach its value.

According to Holy Scripture Jesus Christ not only shed His precious blood for our sins but "that he might deliver us from this present evil world." If this merely meant that He is preparing us a place in Heaven, which He is, we would go to Heaven the minute we are saved. It certainly means that Jesus Christ, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, has the power to keep us in the hour of temptation.

We find that Demas, of his own free will, chose to forsake Paul because he loved this present world. We believe that Demas is a perfect example of those who forsake the teachings of the Church. We find that Demas "departed unto Thessalonica." The city of Thessalonica was named for the step-sister of Alexander the Great. It was the leading harbor of Macedonia. It was built on a hill overlooking the Thermaic Gulf and a beautiful fertile plain. In both Macedonia and Roman times it was an important city, due to its harbor and to the great Egnatian highway which ran through it. It was composed largely of Gentile believers who "turned from idols to serve the living and true God." (I Thessalonians 1:9) We are not told in Holy Scripture exactly what Demas's problem was or why he went to Thessalonica. Did he completely leave the faith or did he go to the Church at Thessalonica intending to persuade them to join him in his love for this present world?

It seems clear to us that contemporary christianity is a mixture of Bible teaching and love for this present world. Within contemporary christianity you will find eloquent prayers without spiritual depth. You will find choirs singing in perfect harmony without the zeal of spiritual understanding. You will find musical instruments played with great precision and feeling but, we believe, without the blessing of God. You will hear sermons delivered with exactness, polish and exuberance but without the power of the Holy Spirit.

Contemporary christianity argues that we must change to fit the times that we live in. Did Demas try to persuade his fellow Christians that it was not really wrong to go to the sports events held at the arena or to attend the plays of his day? Contemporary christianity allows its followers to attend the professional ball games, races and Hollywood movies. Very few take a stand against having a television set in the home anymore. Many that do take a stand against the television are now accepting video players. We have a radio in our home and also in our vehicles. But we recognize that those who refuse to have a radio will not have to worry about being tempted to buy a television. Will video players eventually lead to acceptance of television as radios have had their part in doing?

Contemporary christianity argues that we must look like the world in order to win it to Christ. Has this had an impact upon our Dunkard Brethren Church? Is this why plain coats are laid aside as soon as the weather gets a little warm? We are not suggesting that we must wear a plain coat in real hot weather. Is this why plain beards, plain hats, bonnets and cape dresses have about disappeared? We realize that these things have nothing to do with our salvation. But what will it lead to? Will we next accept the wearing of jewelry? Will we find the wearing of the tie to be acceptable? Can you be saved and still look like the world with make up and cut hair on women? One thing we are positive about, it is not "according to the will of God and our Father."

Contemporary christianity mixes politics and christianity. The Bible teaching of nonresistance is replaced with political pacifism or ignored. This present evil world says we must get involved. Jesus Christ says, "My kingdom is not of this world." Who will you follow?

Let us go beyond contemporary christianity to true worship. Let us desire to follow our Lord and forsake the world. May our desire be that of the song writer E. W. Blandly:

"Where he leads me I will follow, ...
I'll go with him, with him all the way."

Brother James M. Hite
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SIXTY YEARS AGO

July 15, 1933

THE TWO WAYS

J. F. Britton

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:13-14.) So Jesus, who "astonished the multitudes, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes," speaks of one of those ways, as having a wide gate, and being very broad, and leads or ends in destruction. "But He that spake as never man spake," describes the other way as being very narrow, with a strait gate, then says few there be that find it.

It has been "appointed unto man once to die," and this is verified by the fact that every minute of time, human beings are closing their eyes to open them in eternity. Therefore, it stands to reason, and is logical, that the entire human family are on one of those two ways; going on to that home of the redeemed, or to the abyss of the lost.

Why then, do intelligent men and women procrastinate, speculate and cavil about God sending people to hell? If folks go to hell, it will not be because God sends them there; but because they are on the "way" that goes to hell; and there is no other place to go, unless they change their ways. If you wanted to go south, you would not think of going north.

Man has been created and endowed with a volitional faculty, that constitutes man as a free moral agent, with the ability and power of choosing or refusing. Hence if folks go to hell, it is because they choose to take the way that goes to hell. This fact is illustrated and verified in the case of Abraham and Lot as recorded in the 13th chapter of Genesis.

When there arose trouble and controversy between Abram's herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen, Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdsmen and thy herdsmen; for we are brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? Separate thyself, I pray thee, from me; if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left."

And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw the great fascinating, financial and social possibilities, of those fertile plains and valleys of the

Jordan. "Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan," and "dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom." Hence the sequence of the story of Lot, showing that he chose "The Way" that resulted in his loss and destruction of this life's work and accumulation.

And so it is; that "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man," simply because it looks good, and allures with fascination: but alas, "the end thereof is the 'Way of Death'."

Therefore Jesus urges by saying, "Strive to enter in at the strait gate, for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat; because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Are we to understand that Jesus beclouded the narrow way in obscurity, that few could find it? God forbid; Jesus taught in positive terms.

The key that opens the strait gate is found in (Matt. 3:7-10). "But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire."

Jesus confirmed John's exposition, when He said to Nicodemus, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God." (John 3:5.) These texts set before us the irrefutable fact that man must be regenerated through repentance and be born of water and of the Spirit, which alone qualifies him to enter through the "strait gate." It should be noted that Jesus said, "Strive to enter in at the 'strait gate'."

And inasmuch as there is great sorrow, anguish and strivings, in natural birth, hence Jesus said, "A woman when she is in travail, hath sorrow, because her hour is come; but as soon as she is delivered of the child; she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born unto the world." (John 16:21.) So it is with the sinner; the keenest anguish, sorrow and striving of a sinner has always been the birth-time of his spiritual life.

The directions, character and conditions of the "Narrow Way" are set forth in (Isaiah 35:8-10), "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous

beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." The ritual of conduct and piety, of those who travel the narrow way, are specifically and explicitly set forth, and specified through the sacred pages of the New Testament.

Jesus, my all, to heaven is gone,
He whom I fix my hopes upon;
His track I see, and I'll pursue
The Narrow Way, till Him I view.

The way the holy prophets went;
The road that leads from banishment,
The King's highway of holiness,
I'll go, for all His paths are peace.

Amen.

HYMN HISTORY

"Safe In The Arms of Jesus"

Many of Fanny Crosby's popular hymns and gospel songs were written backwards. Instead of writing a poem for someone else to set to music, she wrote quite a few of her stanzas to fit somebody else's tune.

Born in a little cottage in Southeast, Putnam County, New York, March 24, 1820, she was permanently blinded when six weeks old because of the ignorance of a country doctor who applied hot poultices to her inflamed eyes. Before she was a year old, her father, John Crosby, died. Her mother and grandmother supervised the girl's training during her early years. When she was nine, the family moved to Ridgefield, Connecticut where they spent six "beautiful and beneficial years." During her ninth year she wrote her first poem. Going out into the fields one afternoon she asked God to use her for some good, pure and noble purpose; there she dedicated her young life to Him. When she came home a few hours later, she jotted down her first poem. Considering the poet's age and physical condition, the lines are the most beautiful in all literature.

Oh what a happy soul am I, Although I cannot see;
I am resolved that in this world; contented I will be.
How many blessings I enjoy that other people don't;
To weep and sigh because I'm blind, I cannot and I won't.

In 1858, she and Alexander Von Alstyne, a blind musician and instructor in the New York City Institution for the Blind, were married, but she continued to write and publish her works under her well-known maiden name. She and her husband united with the Thirtieth Street Methodist Church in New York.

One afternoon during the summer of 1868, a prominent businessman and Christian layman, William H. Doane, who composed music as a hobby, knocked on Fanny Crosby's door. When he was admitted, he rushed up to the blind poet and said, "Miss Fanny, I have exactly forty minutes before my train leaves for Cincinnati, and I must take that train." When she asked the reason for his call in view of the fact, he explained, "There is to be a great state-wide Sunday School convention in Cincinnati next month. In addition to the large delegations for adults, many young people and children are expected to be present. I want a new hymn which I can introduce for the first time at this convention, to capture the hearts and imaginations of the young people and children." Fanny Crosby smiled, looked up at him with her sightless eyes, and said, "You have already composed the tune, haven't you?" "How did you know?" Mr. Doane replied. "Woman's intuition," she answered, graciously. "Since you know, you might as well listen to it," he added. "And listen closely, because my train leaves in thirty-five minutes and I want to take that new hymn with me when I go."

Turning to the piano he sat down and played his new tune in a rousing and stirring manner. When he finished, Fanny Crosby said, "There is a Bible verse that has been ringing in my mind and heart all day. 'Underneath are the everlasting arms.' " "What about the hymn?" asked Mr. Doane anxiously. "It's right there, William," his hostess explained; "right there in that verse. Your music says 'Safe in the arms of Jesus'. What could be more appropriate for boys and girls at a Sunday School convention?"

Mr. Doane consulted his watch. "Just thirty minutes left," he said, somewhat impatiently. She replied, "You will have your hymn." Going to her desk, she took out a piece of paper, found her pen, sat down and began to write. After putting down several lines, she asked Mr. Doane to play his tune over a few times while she prepared her stanzas. As he played, she continued to write. When she was through, she folded the sheet of paper, placed it in an envelope and handed it to her friend. "Here it is, William. You can read it on the train. Now, hurry. You don't want to be late." He thanked her, said his "Goodbyes," grabbed his hat and rushed for the carriage that was awaiting him in front of the house. Enroute to Cincinnati on the train, he opened the envelope, took out the piece of paper and

read what she had written to fit his music. The first stanza and chorus were as follows:

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast:
There by His Love o'er shaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.
Hark! 'Tis the voice of angels,
Borne on a song to me –
Over the fields of glory,
Over the jasper sea.

(Repeat the first two lines for the chorus.)

Little wonder that God worked miracles through her. Before her death in 1915 at the age of ninety-five, she had written more hymns, songs and poems than anyone else since the beginning of the Christian era.

Although she wrote between seven and eight thousand poems during her lifetime, at the time of her death few equaled in popularity the words she wrote to fit a tune composed by an Ohio business man for a Sunday School convention.

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"Living Stories of Famous Hymns"
Selected by Sister Shirley L. Frick

OBITUARIES

GEORGE REPLOGLE

Brother George E. Replogle was born March 20, 1903 near Middlebury, Indiana. He passed away early in the morning on June 8, 1993 in Elkhart General Hospital. He is survived by two sons; George Elgin Replogle of Goshen, Indiana; Thomas Replogle of Tipp City, Ohio; three daughters, Eleanor Parker of Goshen, Indiana; Retha Corbin of Joliet, Illinois and Nancy Schlafman of Ludlow Falls, Ohio. Also surviving are many grandchildren, several great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

His wife, Violet, and two daughters preceded him in death. All of his brothers, sisters and spouses also preceded him in death.

Brother George had several occupations during his lifetime and had retired from Hobart Brothers Company in Troy, Ohio in 1970. He was a long time member, minister and Elder in the Dunkard Brethren Church. He had a sincere desire to serve and please the Lord. He will be greatly missed by all.

OUR DAD

Our Dad has given us many precious memories for which we are thankful. He displayed a hard work ethic by providing for our needs even during adverse conditions. His perseverance was the over-comer when trials seemed to prevail. His beautiful crystal blue eyes were outstanding and revealed many expressions.

Most of all, Dad's love and dedication to serving the Lord were evident as he studied and expressively preached the Word. The Word also gave him release and relief from his afflictions in the latest years of his life. Prayer was a strength to him and more specifically during the last four and a half years when he was a patient in The Skilled Nursing Unit at the Elkhart General Hospital. The Church hymns were also a great source of joy to him.

We love you, Dad, and know you "fought a good fight." May you now receive the Everlasting Peace of God.

Love - Your Children
Eleanor, George Elgin,
Retha, Thomas and Nancy

RANDALL C. SHAFFER

Bro. Randy Shaffer was born July 31, 1974 to Rudy and Rhoda (Keller) Shaffer. Randy passed away June 13, 1993 at 18 years, 10 months of age. He is survived by his parents, Rudy and Rhoda, a brother Ron, and a sister Rhonda. Grandparents; Foster and Ethel Shaffer and Mary Keller, plus various uncles, aunts and cousins. He was a member of the Lititz Dunkard Brethren Church. Funeral services were held June 16 at the Lititz Dunkard Brethren Church with services conducted by ministers Allen Eberly and Raymond Harnish (School Principal where Randy graduated June 5, 1993). Burial was in the Millbach Cemetery with Bro. James Eberly conducting the committal services.

Randy at different times, expressed a sense of urgency to spread the Gospel Message, even as his health was failing. He closed his only prayer meeting with words which were so vividly demonstrated by his life "We may have struggles here, but in the end, the victory will be sweet." He enjoyed street witnessing, prison ministries, working with "street orphans" and challenging the lives of all who he knew.

Randy brought much joy and happiness to our home. He displayed an accepting attitude, never complaining about the afflictions which were destroying his life. Randy was a hemophiliac and received AIDS tainted blood as a result of the numerous transfusions required by his blood clotting disorder. He did not want attention, pity or sympathy from anyone, and often chided us, as parents, for worrying too much about him. As parents, we often sought God's healing in Randy's life... God answered that prayer with perfect healing and completeness where there is no sickness, pain, suffering... Randy had many struggles, but HIS VICTORY WAS SWEET. As parents, we are thankful he was able to enjoy life up to the last. We miss him in many ways, the loss and pain is very real... But we are thankful God saw fit to spare him the precipitous decline of health, loss of strength and stamina, the wasting away, the intense suffering, the repeated hospitalizations... all so typical of his illness, which he was beginning to experience.

Randy's trip to conference, and enjoying the activities there, was likely the aggravating cause of his death. He left for Conference with a touch of pneumonia seemingly under medical control. On his Friday flight home, his pneumonia turned much worse. In the three short hours between his arrival at the airport, and admission to the hospital, Randy referred several times to his conference trip stating, "I'd do it all over again."

We want to express our thanks to each of you who have remembered us, not only in this time of loss, but also while Randy was yet living, in your prayers, your cards of sympathy, personal notes, words of encouragement and so forth.

One of Randy's school assignments, shortly before his death, was to write a short essay on Heaven. As you can see, his dream came true, perhaps sooner than he anticipated.

Dream Yourself Into Heaven

I have just entered the Pearly Gates of Heaven. As I glance around, I see much splendor, but I am drawn toward the center where I see a Great Blinding Light, and singing that sounds like that of thousands of Angels. There is great joy in my heart as I know now that I have won the victory, and will not ever have to worry about sin again. It's going to be great here. I hope my friends will be here, too.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 1993

August 1 - "Show Us A Sign" - Matthew 16:1-12.

1. Is "sign seeking" a symptom of Spiritual problems?
2. What is the leaven of the Pharisees?

August 8 - "Thou Art the Christ" - Matthew 16:13-28.

1. What is the meaning of the name "Christ"?
2. What is the "final cost" of discipleship? (verse 24-26)

August 15 - The Transfiguration - Matthew 17:1-13.

1. What is it to be transfigured?
2. Why were Moses and Elijah seen on the mountain?

August 22 - Jesus Foretells His Death; Tribute Money -
Matthew 17:14-27.

1. Why were the disciples unable to free the possessed man?
2. Why did Jesus choose to pay the tribute?

August 29 - "Be Converted and Become as Little Children" -
Matthew 18:1-14.

1. In what ways are we to "become as little children"?
2. What are the dangers of offences in the Body of Christ?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 1993

August 1 - Jonah - All chapters.

1. Why was Jonah disobedient to the call of God?
2. Did Jonah have his "heart" in his preaching at Nineveh?

August 8 - The Ark - Gen. 6:1-22.

1. What was the purpose of the flood?
2. What is our spiritual ark today?

August 15 - Miraculous Catch of Fish - Luke 5:1-11.

1. What was Jesus' purpose in this miracle?
2. What lesson can we gain from the actions in verse seven?

August 22 - Cooperation - Matt. 18:19-20, I Cor. 1:10-11, Phil. 1:27-30.

1. Name some blessing that come with cooperation.
2. List some ingredients necessary to a unified effort.

August 29 - Stewards - Matt. 25:14-15, I Cor. 6:19-20, I Pet. 4:10-16,
I Cor. 4:2.

1. What is a steward?
2. What does God require of us as His stewards?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

A SINGLE STITCH

One stitch dropped as the weaver drove
His nimble shuttle to and fro,
In and out, beneath, above,
Till the pattern seemed to bud and grow
As if the fairies had helping been;
One small stitch which could scarce be seen,
But the one stitch dropped pulled the next stitch out,
And a weak place grew in the fabric stout;
And the perfect pattern was marred for aye
By the one small stitch that was dropped that day.

One small life in God's great plan,
How futile it seems as the ages roll,
Do what it may or strive how it can
To alter the sweep of the infinite whole!
A single stitch in an endless web,
A drop in the ocean's flood and ebb!
But the pattern is rent where the stitch is lost,
Or marred where the tangled threads have crossed;
And each life that fails of its true intent
Mars the perfect plan that its Master meant.

- Susan Coolidge

THE POWER OF APOSTACY

Apostacy has gained a great foothold in many churches during the past several decades. It would have been thought impossible, not many years ago, that some of these groups would change so much. They once were conservative, Biblical groups, but now are nearly unrecognizable. Their descent into disbelief and disobedience was often very fast after a few minor changes crept in.

The "apostate" has defected from the beliefs and standards that he formerly held to. He has abandoned the message, he was entrusted with. These apostate leaders were not purposely trying to go astray, but they became Satan's tools. As these groups slipped into apostacy, a few were alarmed, but most were unconcerned. The slide was slow and easy. There was no great single issue that would awaken and alarm a great number of people. Apostacy is not a desirable destination, but Satan can make each downward step look plausible and tempting.

This is not the first time apostacy has been found among God's supposed people. There were many occasions in the Old Testament when the Jews became apostate. They worshipped the idols of their enemies. They were unconcerned about the well being of God's House. They allowed elements into their worship that were not approved by God. They became the tools of the devil in his battle to displace God. In New Testament times, although the Babylonian Exile had cured them of idolatry, they still had a religion that concised of form rather than substance.

The Pharisees were very well trained in the nuances of the Law; as interpreted by their fathers, but they failed to understand the human, Spiritual side of that Law. They did not recognize the Son

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of God, when He came among them. They used every, available power to thwart Him. They were unsuccessful until they joined forces with their archenemies, the Romans. Using the power of the hated Roman government, they were finally able to get Jesus executed. They were willing to compromise with the Romans, so they could get rid of Him. They were allied with the state.

Later their apostasy caused them to use many of the same tactics to have the Apostle Paul arrested. Again they allied themselves with the Roman government so they could be rid of this pestilent fellow who challenged their guardianship of the things of God. They could talk of God. They knew the Law of Moses. They were zealous in their mistaken service of God, but they did not have a clue about the deeper Spiritual elements of life. They did not want to hear about Jesus and His saving Gospel. They did not want to be told that He was the Son of God nor to be reminded that they had had Him executed. They were apostates.

The power of these apostates was to accuse these godly men to the government. They did not have the power to stop them, themselves. That is the way with apostasy today, it can accuse and persecute, but in the end it does not have the power to overcome Christianity.

We can think very ill of these apostates, but we must be very careful that we do not follow their downward course. Too often Christians want to avail themselves of the luxuries of the world, yet consider themselves different from the world. The subtlety of Satan leads Christians to step by step, point by point, give up the beliefs and practices that have been established for their Spiritual well-being. Like the Jews of old, many Christians want to turn to the civil government to accomplish their agenda, thus forging a union between the Church and the state. The apostate church can see nothing wrong with the methods or ends used by the world. The Church is to work through prayer, preaching and private devotional living, not through politics, demonstration or social protest. What seems so necessary to accomplish the good ends desired, will ultimately compromise Christians, so they will become leagued with evil. Christians may spend so much time involved in these social and political issues that they do not have proper time for Bible study, worship or nurturing of their families. In the end, while compromise is gaining an ill gotten end, true Spiritual living and belief is lost.

Apostasy has been a real threat to the Church since the days of the Primitive Church. Even some of the Churches ministered to by the Apostles became apostate. The Church at Galatia followed the Judaizers, the Corinthians followed the world into schism and pride. The past few decades have witnessed many Churches going astray.

It is our duty to stand by the Word of God. We need to conduct our individual lives and our Church lives as those who have truly been sent forth with the message that the surrounding world needs, instead of allowing the world to dictate our message.

MCC

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Christian Tears...

How easy it is for us to become hardened in these times to the increasing violence, pornography, immorality and injustice that is constantly around us. We must constantly be developing a sensitivity to sin. The Apostle Paul did this. In his mid-career, he called himself an apostle... but later termed himself as the last of all saints. Finally, he said, "I am the chief of sinners." As he grew in grace and conformity to the image of Christ, he could see more clearly the exceeding sinfulness of sin. And, this caused him many tears.

It is easy for us to harden our hearts against the stern realities of life and the misfortunes of others until we find ourselves cold and unable to care enough to cry. We need to be as the prophets were. They frequently wept over the wrongdoing of their age.

We need Christ's heart of sorrow to see people who haven't received Christ as their personal Saviour as blind and headed for an awful judgment. We need to see unsaved, well-dressed, well-fed and prosperous people as being just as lost and doomed as the derelicts in the gutters. Tears... for people outside of Christ... heading for eternal punishment.

Yes, we see Jesus at the tomb of Lazarus... weeping. We see Him in the Garden of Gethsemane... weeping. We see Him weeping over Jerusalem. And, it is the Jerusalem experience that I would like to concentrate on for a moment.

Jesus sees the ruined lives of the peoples of our time. Our cities, towns and country sides are filled with them. Because we see them crying out on the inside... we might cry out on the outside. As we could visualize the weeping Christ:

I am the Christ of the city street,
 I walk its miles with bleeding feet,
 I see the men whose lives are spent
 In deepest night and banishment,
 From all that human hearts hold dear,
 I see the ghosts of men walk here.
 I see their faces gaunt and thin,

The sinful hearts I long to win,
I know their burdens, feel their pain
And yearn to turn their loss to gain;
I note the falter in their tread,
I see the pallor of the dead
Upon their faces, and I stand
To offer them My nail-scarred hand,
But not I weep, for even they
Sneer mockingly and turn away....
Yes, of this city I'm a part...
I walk its street with bleeding heart.

Perhaps, in a moment of temptation we could recall it was our iniquity that helped make Jesus weep... this would enable us to gain the victory. Our unkind word, nasty deed, unfaithfulness to our mate, insidious slander, malicious envy, hatred, racial prejudice, social and religious snobbery, cheating, insolent disobedience to parents, excessive love of material things... all helped make Christ shed tears. If He sorrowed over our sins, how much more should we sorrow over them. Let us repent in tears... tears of sorrow... leading us to tears of victory.

Bro. Len Wertz

LET'S NOT FOLLOW TRADITION

There are those within the earthly church who are teaching that following "the traditions of men" is causing division and lack of love within the body of Christ. WE AGREE! For too long the majority of those who name the name of Christ have been following tradition rather than the Holy Scriptures.

First of all, let us state that we feel there seems to be an increase of ill will and lack of love within many denominations and even local congregations. While a definite tradition may not be linked to the problem it is certainly linked in some way to a "church rule." We should never allow a personal conviction to cause us to show contempt toward any individual. In I John 2:8 we read, "He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now." You have to decide who your "brother" is, but for us it is anyone who accepts the deity of Jesus Christ and desires to be true to Him. If this makes us too liberal so be it.

Secondly, we confess that we cannot get excited about "black hats and bonnets." But we love and respect those who see these things as important. We drive a car (which is not black and even has white wall tires) but we love and respect those who cannot drive a car or who have to have one all black in color.

Now let us "get down to business." We reject the man made tradition of wearing a tie. Therefore we refuse to wear one. We also do not wish to follow the man made tradition of wearing lapel suits. Therefore we wear a plain coat. In addition to this we do not feel a need to follow the tradition of shaving the beard or wearing a mustache. Therefore we wear the beard without the mustache.

Many godly women refuse to follow the tradition of cutting their hair. Rather they choose to follow the teaching of I Corinthians 11. They also, along with Godly men, refuse to wear jewelry or immodest dress according to popular tradition. Rather they choose to follow the instructions in I Timothy 2:8-10 and I Peter 3:3-4. These women also choose to wear the prayer veil. According to some this issue is a major one in causing the division and lack of love we referred to. So let's stop following tradition! This means that all women should stop wearing the prayer veil, right? We will stand with the Apostle Paul (who taught the prayer veil in I Corinthians 11 under the guidance of the Holy Spirit) when he stated in II Corinthians 10:2, "But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh." Then in verse 7 of this chapter he states, "Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's." Then in verse 12 of this chapter we read, "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise." Paul ends with verses 17 and 18 (according to Bible division) "But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth."

Who is following after the tradition of men and "looking on the things after the outward appearance"? If you study church history you will find that there was a time when all women covered their head for worship. It was only after the advent of a certain tradition that this came to an end among the majority of christendom. So do we "make ourselves of the number" or "glory in the Lord" and follow His instructions?

While we fully agree that those who feel only "Brethren" will be in Heaven are wrong, we have to wonder about some thinking concerning our "tradition." As an example we know of a missionary who holds a Brethren membership who chose to baptize one time backward to please those he was in contact with "because it is not important how you baptize." If it is NOT IMPORTANT how you baptize why was it necessary to change from three-fold forward to one time backward?

But man-made tradition goes much farther than what we wear of "church practices." Man-made tradition states that Christianity is only one of many acceptable religions. (In reality Christianity is not a religion.) Along with this goes the denial of the virgin birth, sinless life, bodily resurrection, ascension, and literal coming again of Jesus Christ. Human tradition teaches that we can make Heaven by good works rather than by the blood of Jesus Christ. Human tradition teaches that the Bible is only one of many good books that can be used as guidelines. This tradition teaches that man, not the Holy Spirit, guided the authors' thoughts. It teaches that this Holy Book is full of errors and unreliable. The acceptance of this tradition is always followed by rejecting the "less important" teachings of scripture.

If you are reading this and have never come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ we urge you accept the teaching of scripture and repent of your sins. For those who know the Lord we leave with you I Thessalonians 4:1-2, "Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus."

Brother James M. Hite
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1993 GENERAL CONFERENCE SERMON NOTES

Saturday P.M.

Bro. Frank E. Shaffer opened. Psalms 95. The Psalmist David said, "Come let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord." The Word of God is that great rock and so true.

Bro. Len Wertz. Revelations 3:14-22. "Atrophy Under the Belfry." The lack of nourishment in the Church is causing it to die or atrophy on the inside. Belfry is the protector of the peace. The battle is between good and evil. Satan, today, is trying to destroy the minds of the men who are trying to be faithful to God. The Church is the body of Christ. It must have a great frame work. Our mind has great control of us. As a church we must have control of ourselves in order to work for Jesus in unity. We must have great love and carry out our assignment in the Church. Our assignment in the Church is the Old Rugged Cross. Stay on the cross because there is blessings for our lives. We must go all the way with Jesus Christ. We dare not be lukewarm Christians. We must get rid of the sin in our life. We must have a Spiritual care and take Jesus into our lives. We cannot do every thing the world is doing, we will be sure

to fall. We need to learn and listen to the full Spirit of Jesus Christ. We have to confront atrophy or we are going to fall in the Church. The New Age will say we are a weird people. Don't worry what New Age says, just think we are serving our true God. Follow the Holy Spirit and your relationship with Christ. We need to know God.

Bro. Kenneth Wilkerson. I Peter 2:1-9. "Stones." What does it mean to be a lively stone? We should be able to stand strong in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are to pattern our lives after Him. Jesus is the truth. He brings us the truth. Does His power flow in us? Are we rooted in the Word of God? Or are we the few that see the Word of God differently in the Church? We must become humble as a little child and serve Him. We must be a Servant for the Lord. God is expecting a work out of us. Jesus is the chief cornerstone. We must be willing to teach the Holy Word to the lost with the help of the Lord. Are we hungry for the truth of the Holy Word? Our only hope is Christ. Christ is the cornerstone of our faith. He is chosen of God. We are to be lively stones. We must teach salvation by grace. A living stone can let us reason together. We must be willing to bare each other's burdens, and fulfill the Holy Word.

Bro. Fred Johnson closed. We can make many improvements in our lives.

Saturday Evening.

Elder Warren Smith opened. Romans 1. People are trying to condition their minds to all sinful practices. We need to be concerned about our minds that they do not become conditioned to sinful practices. The forces of Satan can be very misleading.

Elder Fred Pifer. I Timothy 3:1-4. "Ruling Well His Own House." Fathers and husbands should rule their own houses. Many homes and churches have fallen with a weakness of the Scripture in God's Holy Word. Adam disobeyed God. He was not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the Garden. Men who fail to rule their own house is a cause for the churches to be on a downward trend. One who rules well is not a dictator. A dictator is not one who rules well. A father who rules well his own house is a loving father. Christ is going to come again and take His Church out of this world.

Elder Edward Johnson closed. For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ.

Sunday Morning Worship

Elder William Carpenter. The Lord has done many wonderful things for us. He is willing to care for us if we are one of His.

Sunday A.M.

Elder Joseph Flora opened. Matthew 6:27-34. Jesus taught we are not as special as we think we are. Grow a little each day in the

work of the Lord. Give a little thought of what we can do for the Lord and ourselves.

Children's Sunday School. "One Who Restores Sight to the Blind."

Elder Dale Jamison. Matthew 5:1-12. "The Blessedness." Jesus requires our good works. The Sermon on the Mount was a light from the hillside. Christ knew the hearts of the people at that time. God is love. He is the head of every home. Do you want to be blessed? How does the Lord want us to live? The first word Jesus spoke was blessed. There is going to be a Hell. According to Jesus there are poor in Spirit. Who are they? Queen of Sheba? There was no more spirit in her. Let the Spirit of God flow in us. Jesus calls the lost souls cursed. We need to listen to that hillside sermon of Jesus and follow Him in our Spiritual life. Jesus' mother mourned at the cross of Jesus for Him. The meek are not easily insulted, they are patient, they are humble sheep. Jesus was meek. He said, "Take up my cross and follow me." He that hungers and thirst after righteousness wants to be more a spiritual worker. Who is on the Lord's side? "The merciful and those who have compassion for each other." He that has clean hands and a pure heart can follow Jesus safely. Jesus told us to follow Him. This mountain top experience gives us a hope to put our trust in Jesus.

Elder Rudy Cover. Matthew 5:14-16. "Living by the Word of God." God looks on the heart of man. The Living Word of God is food for the soul. We are the light of the world. It is a remedy for sin. Jesus spoke with authority in His teachings. We should wear modest apparel. We want to live by the Word of God. Jesus can look into our hearts. He can tell how we stand. As a man thinketh in his heart so is he. Every one is important in the sight of God. God can give us strength to meet our sorrows. If you hate your brother you are the same as a murderer according to the Word of God. Jesus has told us the truth. The Holy Word is true for us to live by. Jesus said, "Come unto me and I will give you rest." Jesus came to seek and teach the lost souls salvation. Jesus said be ye perfect as near as possible.

Elder Galen Litfin closed. Living by God's Word produces something, love and courage for each of us. The good Word my Redeemer liveth.

To be continued.

Sister Alice Heisey

THE INVASION OF THE LADY PREACHERS

I Corinthians 14:34-35, "Let your women keep silent in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are

commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law, And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for a woman to speak in the church."

I Corinthians 11:3, "... the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God."

One of the traditions of the church that in many places is going by the wayside is the reading of First Corinthians 11 at the Lovefeast Examination Service. We are sorry to see it go. We believe we need to be reminded of the proper order of things, and it would not be wrong to hear about it at other times. When we look at the many churches which have relaxed their stance over the years on so many things, we see that first of all there was a breakdown in the area of "tradition." Be careful of those that preach and teach against the traditions of the church because, even if they speak in love, others may be waiting to step in and preach "another gospel", their motive being to destroy the Biblical separation and witness of the church.

The church of God was founded on many wise premises such as headship. The idea, just as Peter referred to lively stones building up a spiritual house, is "a place for everyone and everyone in their place." In spiritual life as well as in physical life, there is a natural order. This order is created to eliminate confusion. Please bear in mind that there will always be folks eager to take advantage of any situation. As long as man's heart is carnal there will be problems. But man can never create a more perfect system than God.

Headship is one of the most important doctrines taught in the New Testament, yet it is often one of the first to go as modernism takes over. Why? Women want to preach, and men are very willing to let them. Just as the plural, free ministry is the Biblical way for many good reasons, it only works well when all other aspects of the ministry are followed.

Most churches do not suddenly become apostate. All man-made organizations will experience drift, and usually the first things to go are insignificant to some of us. But if we give way on the little things the bigger things soon will follow. A woman does not just suddenly appear in the ministry of a church. Usually the woman's role in the congregation becomes more visible at first: more "equal" with the man's. The prayer veil, which the Bible calls a sign of subjection, is one of the first things to go. Modesty will remain for a while, but more manly dress will appear. Divorce and remarriage become admissible and the meek and quiet spirit of the Christian woman soon disappears. The devil has put the desire in women to gain power over the man, just as he has used man to enslave women. But Christians know that men are not superior to women, they merely occupy a different role. God is head over all, including Christ. Christ is head over the human race, and man is head over

the woman. There is nothing more satisfying than to see a Christian woman occupying her Biblical place. The devil knows the perfection of this arrangement, and he does all he can to create a sense of dissatisfaction in the woman, who is the keystone of the family. A woman listening to the devil will soon believe that she is "unfulfilled" because she has no "career", and will endeavor to find one.

The Christian's purpose in life, whether man or woman, is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever, and not to satisfy ourselves. Many women feel that the woman's place in the church is like slavery. It is demeaning to them. Anyone truly seeking to serve God will be able to search the scriptures and find that this is simply not so.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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SIXTY YEARS AGO

August 1, 1933

THE TRUE CONVERSION

H. E. Wingert

Perhaps there is no subject in the Bible more spoken of among the professed people and less understood than that of conversion. Then what is it and of what does it consist?

Faith alone is not conversion; faith and repentance are not conversion; faith without works is dead being alone, says the apostle. Repentance is not only Godly sorrow, but a Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of, but the sorrow of the world worketh death says the apostle.

Then it takes faith, repentance and baptism to bring about conversion. The word says bring forth fruits, meat for repentance. If we show fruits of repentance then repentance is made manifest in us and if we show no fruits of repentance there is no evidence no one can turn to God without repentance. We are then made willing to accept the whole counsel of God. Then true conversion is an entire change made in person, it turns the whole person over, body, soul and spirit, as the apostle hath said, so we also should walk in newness of life.

Jesus taught that conversion went before pardon, then too, conversion is a change of heart. Then if no conversion, no pardon. If the heart is changed our manner of life will also be changed. Our Saviour hath truly said, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil."

A man may make a profession and claim to be converted, but if we see no change in his life and he looks and acts like he did before and loves the sinful amusements as before we must surely conclude there is no evidence of conversion.

The scriptures teach a change of life and practice. No matter how loud a profession a person may make, no one who reads and believes the Bible has any confidence in his profession unless there is a change in the life. He then is willing to accept the whole doctrine of Christ and to observe all things that He has commanded. He is also willing to suffer reproach for the name of Jesus and take upon himself the self-denying principles in God's word, the teachings of Christ were never popular with the spirit of this world and never will be. The things that are popular with the world are of man.

Now the truly converted find more real enjoyment than they ever had before, they have a hope which is an anchor to the soul and are now soldiers of Jesus Christ our Lord; but there is a warfare on. We should go on to perfection, there is no place to stand still. The truly converted and true volunteers make soldiers for the Lord.

Without any doubt there is much preaching in the world to no good purpose. The gospel says "by their fruits ye shall know them." The apostle hath truly said, "The husbandman that laboreth must first be a partaker of the fruit." A person cannot well teach what he does not practice; this is why there is so much preaching to no purpose, but only to be popular with the world. The word says come out from among the world and be ye separate and let your light so shine that it can be seen of men.

If a man does not obey the commandments he cannot consistently teach them, if he does not practice feet-washing as instituted in the house of God, he dare not teach it. The Savior in John 14:12 says, "Verily, verily I say unto you he that believeth on me the works that I do shall he do also;..." And one of the works that Christ did was to wash the disciples feet.

Now in the above we see that Christ says we ought to wash one another's feet; ought is binding and if he does not salute his brethren with a holy kiss or kiss of love how can he teach it? If his mode of dress is still of the world how can he teach Christ's doctrines of non-conformity in dress? If he does not bear non-resisting principles he will not teach them.

Now he that honoreth not the Son the same hath not the Father is scripture, and if he does not give equal honor to the Father, Son and Holy Ghost in his baptism he will not teach that and in fact if he has never truly repented and been born of water and of the blood or spirit of Christ we cannot expect him to teach it.

Obedience is the best evidence of faith we have. There seems to be so-called great evangelists in this old world who do not

preach any particular doctrine but strongly impress upon the minds of the many hearers the great need of having their names on some church record and pay the pastor, then say if the heart is right that's all, and claim great numbers regardless of how.

It is a very doubtful question if ever they themselves have been truly converted and if they were believers. Some have fallen back to become unbelievers in a great sense, they may federate and unionize but God never gave man his own choice except on two occasions David was given choice out of three plagues for numbering the people, famine, sword and pestilence. The Israelites were told by Moses to choose for themselves, "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve."

We have that choice today. He whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God, the apostle Paul shunned not to declare all the counsel of God. Now if we claim to be Christians we should have Bible evidence to prove it. Much is said from the pulpit about joining church and being a church member, but not much said about being a Christian. That is about as far as the teaching sometimes go.

The first principles of the doctrine of Christ are overlooked and many people depend upon the pastor for their knowledge but we are commanded to search the scripture for ourselves and not depend on an arm of flesh.

MIRACLES OF CHRIST AS RECORDED IN GOD'S WORD

13. He Cures A Man With Dropsy

Luke 14:1-6

We have, in this miracle, teachings from Christ. He used every opportunity to teach the multitudes who thronged Him daily. We are to study to show ourselves workmen, approved of God.

The multitude had a personal, direct experience in hearing Jesus expound the word and seeing the results of His miracles. We are limited to studying the Word and with the help of the Holy Spirit, His messages are revealed to us.

In the scripture indicated above, Jesus, took the opportunity to eat bread in one of the chief Pharisee's home on the Sabbath day. The Pharisees were very critical of Jesus and they were this day. The Word says, "They watched Him." Jesus knew their thoughts and was fully prepared for what was to come. I believe Jesus came to the Chief Pharisees for a specific purpose.

As that group ate together that day, there were lawyers present whose thoughts Jesus foreknew. Jesus put a question before this group of honored men, thinking ahead about the man who was

present who had dropsy. I believe, from the very start it was Jesus' intention to heal him. His question to these lawyers and Pharisees was, "Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day?" Apparently this was a Sabbath Day.

Apparently Jesus did not receive or need an answer to His question. The Chief Pharisees and others present did not speak at this time. The Word says, "They held their peace."

Jesus healed the man with the dropsy and let him go. Then Jesus asked His audience if they had had an ass or an ox fall into a pit, would they not straightway pull it out on the Sabbath Day.

In the Old Testament, we have a scripture regarding occasions related to the above. In Deut. 22:4, "Thou shalt not see thy brother's ass or his ox fall down by the way, and hide thyself from them: thou shalt surely help him to lift them up again." This Old Testament Scripture covers what Jesus was teaching here and the same principle applies in the New. If a neighbor or stranger need help, even on the Sabbath, HELP HIM.

This miracle surely is an example of doing to others as you would want others to do unto you.

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OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

The Good Name

J. H. Moore

On the streets of a Southern village I met an aged man, borne down in deep sorrow. I met him for the first time years before. He was then a happy man, possessing a lovely home, engaged in a profitable business and had around him sons and daughters that cheered his heart. I then regarded him as the most fortunate of men. A more charming home could not have been found in the "Land of Flowers." It was his boast that the bolt of his door was never turned in the evening until all the children were safe in the family fold. He never had to lament and ask, "Oh, where is my boy tonight?" He saw that his children were safe at home at reasonable hours, and thus kept away from the haunts of vice.

He had made money, and gathered much property around him. A good living the balance of his life seemed fully assured. Along that line he had nothing that needed to worry him in the least. He was known far and near, and no man had a better name or a better reputation.

But when I met him on the village street a wonderful change had come over him. All of his property had been swept away. His charming home was gone, his companion in life, the mother of his children, was no more, and his reputation in the business world was ruined. The time was when nearly every man in the country looked up to him, but now all, save a few close friends, paid little attention to him.

In an unguarded moment he had affixed his good name to a large bond. This he did to help a son-in-law in business. For a time business flourished, but reverse came, the young man went down and dragged the aged father with him. The earnings of many years disappeared inside of a few months. A business that had required years to establish had to be given up, and everything in sight had to be sacrificed. The good name, that was of more value than the man's property and business, had also to suffer, and he divested of its power in social and financial circles.

As I conversed with him he could only lament his great loss, feeling that there was nothing left in this world for him but the waiting grave. Everything that had been of any interest to him was gone and the grave, the waiting grave, was his only earthly hope. He censured no one, but simply lamented. Not an unkind word escaped his lips, but he grieved and at times wept.

He, of course, saw his mistake, but only when it was too late. His name was good on any bond, but in this instance it proved his ruination. His name was worth thousands of dollars, but he had used it one time too often, or rather he had made an unwise use of it. With his name went his home, his other property and his business. One may think a name is a small matter, but in this instance it proved of wonderful consequence.

It may require years to secure a good name, a name of value in the social and financial world, but how quickly can it be divested of its power! The moral of all this is, that the man who does not have a good name should strive for it. Such a name is worth the effort of a lifetime. But when it is once obtained, it is worth taking care of. Let people be careful where they allow their names to be used, and then be equally careful regarding the reproaches that may be heaped upon a good name. Too many people, both young and old, do not value a good name as they should. In an unguarded moment one may affix his name to an instrument of writing that will sweep away his home and his business, and divest the good name of every element of power in the commercial world. It may be well for my readers to think of the fate of the unfortunate old man, who lamented as he walked the streets of the little Southern village.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 16

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
-------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

O HOW I LOVE THY LAW

I love to see the Lord below;
His church displays his grace;
But upper worlds his glory know,
And view him face to face.

I love to worship at his feet,
Though sin annoy me there;
But saints, exalted near his seat,
Have no assaults to fear.

I love to meet him in his court,
And taste his heav'nly love;
But still his visits seem to short,
Or I too soon remove.

He shines, and I am all delight;
He hides, and all is pain;
When will he fix me in his sight,
And ne'er depart again?

O lord, I love thy service now;
Thy church displays thy power,
But soon in heav'n I hope to bow,
And praise thee evermore.

ROBBING GOD

Robbery, thievery, and stealing are very common crimes. Men have always been envious and desirous of the things belonging to others. It does not matter what or how much a person might have, there still remains a desire to have more. It may be for something more costly, more beautiful, or more notorious. It seems man is seldom satisfied with what he has. It is not only the poor but also the rich who look greedily at the belongings of others.

There is a form of robbery that does not seek material objects. This robbery steals the position of another. Jealousy at the promotion or good fortune of another creates a desire to injure them. Injury may take the form of gossip or angry accusations. Whatever the attack, it is designed to lower the esteem of others for the one not in favor. There may even be some truth involved, but it is distorted so it can do its greatest damage.

To steal a person's good name is to commit a very low and dastardly crime. Usually there is no civil penalty imposed, unless a very well known person is involved. But the damage done is as real and disastrous as if physical mayhem had been committed.

The motives of others are often misunderstood. Since one can not see into the mind and heart of another, it is not always possible to know just what the other intended. Intentions are especially hard to determine, if something goes awry and the original intention was not carried out as expected. There is often a slip between the thought and the deed.

Christians are often misunderstood by others. Sometimes they are thought to be too rigid because they offer solutions that are

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Spiritual, but not understandable to those who are not Spiritual. The Christian's motives and wisdom are maligned because those who need the help will not receive it because, to them, it seems unreasonable. The reasoning of the unconverted is different than the reasoning of the saint. Even other Christians, those young or immature, may also reject Biblical counsel. Christians should not be offended too greatly at this. There is a great gulf between the natural man and the Spiritual man. Unfortunately there may be a gap between believer and believer.

Additionally, Christians should remember that Jesus was often ridiculed and looked down upon during His ministry. Neither the Romans nor the Jews could fully understand Him. Even the disciples had a hard time realizing what He was teaching. There were several times when He upbraided them for their lack of faith.

God has been called into question by many in the world. Unfortunately, even His own people could not realize His plan and purpose. They often became rebellious. The account in Malachi 3:8-18 shows how they failed to regard God as they should have. Lest, we attack them too vehemently, we must be sure we are not guilty of the same failing.

Malachi asked the question, "Will a man rob God?" It hardly seems conceivable that God's people would rob Him, yet this is the charge that He made against them. He showed them different ways they had been bold enough to rob Him. The first was the withholding of their tithes and offerings. They placed their own needs ahead of God's. They did not see tithing as a privilege, but as a duty, a very hard duty. There was no joy in their giving, only a fulfilled duty. Perhaps they would not have given then if it had not been expected of them and it would not have looked good to not give.

They had spoken stoutly against the Lord. They had considered their service for God to have been so much wasted time. They could see no profit in keeping the commandments of God and the ordinances of the House of God. There had not been a material reward so they considered it worthless effort. Many, today, can see no advantage in serving God. They consider the requirements of the Christian life to be too restricting. They can see no reason they can not do the same things, go the same places and wear the same clothes that the world around them does. Many can see no value in a life dedicated to God rather than to Satan, sin and mammon.

Even though the majority could not understand the value of a Spiritual lifestyle, there were a few who saw and understood. Today, there are still a few who do wish to please God. They understand that to live a life displeasing to God is to rob God.

Each has the God-given privilege to love God with their whole being. To give Him any less is to rob Him of what He deserves.

Are you robbing God?

MCC

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Sources of Christian vitality"

A Christian, living in this age, needs a strong and robust constitution. We need both moral and physical vigor...a tough body and a tough mind. How can we achieve the vitality that is illustrated in the Bible that flowed through our Savior as He walked and ministered here on the earth? Let us consider the following principles of achieving VITALITY in our lives:

First. Know who you are. Many people flounder in life because they really don't know who they are. Christ had no identity problem. At the age of twelve He already had some idea of His person and His mission. He knew He was the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

He taught that His words would outlast heaven and earth, that believing on Him would give eternal life, that He would answer prayer made in His name, that He would forgive sin and that some day He would come back again for His people. Yes, He was conscious of His special identity with the heavenly Father.

Charles Eliot, a former president of Harvard University, was born with a birthmark that disfigured much of his face. His first awareness of his handicap came when, as a small boy at play with neighborhood children, their cruel taunts sent him home to look into the mirror at his blemished face. His grief was uncontrollable. The next morning his sympathetic mother took him aside and spoke gently, "We've consulted the best doctors, and they say nothing can be done. But it is possible for you to grow a soul so gracious that people will forget to look at your face. Do it, son, with God's help." Eliot followed that advice and became honored and cherished by men of learning the world over.

Believers in Christ should have no identity problems. We are sinners whose blemishes have been washed in the blood of Christ through His grace. As possessors of the new life, we have been placed in the family of God and are now joint heirs with Jesus. Knowing our position as children of God should provide great impetus for vibrancy in our Christian life.

Second. We need to know where we are going. Knowing that the grave could not contain Him, Jesus predicted His resurrection. He also knew He would return to His Father, to the place of many

mansions. He knew that at the end of the age, He would return to earth in great glory and rule. He was confident that He would eat with His disciples again.

Assurance of ultimate victory enabled Him to stride across the pages of history with strength and dignity. Despite adverse circumstances which might have fractured the spirit of others, Jesus stood firm and strong, with quiet vitality, deterred by nothing.

Of all of the people on earth, only the child of God has a guarantee of a glorious destiny. Because Christ lives, we can face tomorrow. This hope should supply a flow of vitality for abundant living.

Finally, Jesus drank deeply from the Word of God. He believed implicitly in the Bible of His day. He declared, "The Scripture cannot be broken." And, more than believing the record, Jesus studied it. About nine percent of Jesus' words in the Gospels are quotes from the Old Testament...coming from over twenty books. He even corrected the devil when he misused Psalm 91.

More than believing and studying the Old Testament, Jesus applied it personally. He won victory over the devil by answering his temptations with "It is written," He used the Word for encouragement and strength.

How much do we prize our Bibles today? Not many centuries ago copies of the Bible were rare, costly and separated into several scrolls which were too bulky to be combined into one volume. Some believers would never handle a copy...let alone have one for their very own. Today we can pick up the entire Bible in one compact volume...even in pocket size editions.

Guidance for daily living can be found in this great Book of Books. As we read it, we should ask if there is an example to follow or if there is a sin to shun. Is there a promise to claim or a truth to learn about our awesome God, Christ or the Holy Spirit? It is the source for vitality.

Even though the world is growing older and older...we as Christians should be growing younger and younger! We should be talking on a vibrancy in our faith that is fresh every morning and filled with new energy and hope. Christ's vitality...His warmth, graciousness, tenderness, compassion, mercy, kindness, and love are ours today.. Let it energize us with great energy and vitality for the task that is before us.

Brother Len Wertz

A NATION IN DECLINE

Psalm 12:1, "Help, Lord; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men."

Psalm 12:8, "The wicked walk on every side, when the vilest men are exalted."

The scripture, in Psalm 12, tells us two signs of a nation in decline. If we read history, and many of us do, we can see how many times the scriptures have been proven right. A wise man once said that those who do not learn from the mistakes of the past will be bound to repeat them. We have often compared the United States with that of our homeland, which is Great Britain. Great Britain was a great kingdom, nearly covering the entire world. They sent missionaries and foreign aid all over the world, just like the United States does today. But over the years they forgot something very important. They forgot God. Now they are no longer significant in the world.. They are a third-rate nation.

Psalm 12:1 tells us that godly men are disappearing. This is a sign of a nation in decline. Wise and godly men all around us are vanishing. Most are going on to glory and not being replaced. Others are going back in sin, giving up their walk with the Lord. The wise counsel, the good advice that used to bless us is being substituted with, "Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die."

The other sign of a nation in decline is found in verse eight. The wicked walk on every side when the vilest men are exalted. When wicked men are lifted up, then wickedness will flourish. Our President, and may God help him, has only kept one campaign promise, and that is to give more rights to the sodomites. Are not the wicked now on every side? What does this tell us about our leaders, as well as the people that voted for them? (As to this matter of voting, when often asked whether I vote or not, we tell them that we vote daily upon our knees.)

Some feel that it would be beneficial for us to get involved in government. We only have record of the Apostle Paul taking advantage of his Roman citizenship once, and he did so not to free himself but rather that he could bring the gospel to the highest ruler of the known world.

What, then can we do in this troubled time? Can we stem the tide? In I Corinthians 10:31 it says, whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. In Matthew 5:44 it says to do good to them that hate you. In Luke 3:14 it tells us to do violence to no man. In Luke 10 we are told that if we love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and if we love our neighbor as ourselves, if we do these things we will live. Whether we can turn around a declining nation is another story. But, if we are faithful, we can turn some thirsty soul to Jesus before it is too late.

Brother L. H. Miller
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1993 GENERAL CONFERENCE SERMON NOTES

Continued from August 1, 1993 Issue

Sunday P.M.

Elder Eugene Kauffman opened. We should be living righteously and be ready to meet our Savior when we leave this world.

Elder Virgil Leatherman. Matthew 5:46-47. "The Christian Extra." A Christian would read his Bible. A Christian will pray. Let your light shine and live like a Christian should live. We should live a life that makes us different than those who are not Christians. The world can see we are different. It pays us to live a life that will be shining light to the world. Do unto others as you would have others do unto you. The Lord expects us to live Godly lives in this world. Many people in this world do not read the Bible. Many people look upon us and we are the only Bible they read.

Elder Henry Walker. Romans 8:6. "Our Mind." To be Spiritually minded is life and peace. To be carnally minded is enmity against God. Let us put into our minds pure and Holy things. God can forgive us of our sins. Keep our minds Holy and pure that we can live righteously for Jesus. Let us live obediently to the teachings of Christ. We are supposed to be a separate people, not to be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds thereby having our sins forgiven. Fill our minds, today, with things that are true. Christ is the truth and the life we should follow. Purity is teaching our children the way of the Lord and living true to Him. We older ones should live lives righteously and true to the Holy Word. Be good examples to our children.

Elder Herman Jamison closed. Let us meet our challenges to serve our Heavenly Father.

Sunday Evening

Elder Michael Wray opened. Revelation 2:1-5. Remember the first love of the Church.

Elder Robert Carpenter. Matthew 5:13. "How Much Salt in a Loaf of Bread." Ye are salt of the earth. Ye, You, are the salt of the earth. Salt was a symbol of purity. Salt is something of influence. Salt put in water takes the chemicals out of it. What do the "waters" mean? Jesus told the woman at the well, "I am the living water." God's Word is alive. Water is a symbol in the Word of God. Some of the Children of Israel didn't forget their God. Without the Word of God we would lose the salt in our life. How much influence can we have upon the people of this world. Are we discouraged because the salt seems so small among God's people? Are we alive for our Heavenly Father and His Holy Word?

Bro. Ray Stuber. 1 Peter 2:11. (To the Young People) "Stop Signs For Single Saints." We need to abstain from worldly lusts.

We have Jesus to help us keep Satan out of our hearts. Be ye not unequally yoked together. Young saints there are stop signs in the Word of God, if we play with fire (something sinful). There are stop signs on the road for us to watch, and we have stop signs in the Bible for our safety. There are stop signs in the Word of God for us to live by. We are a separated people unto God. We are supposed to be the salt of the earth. We need to accept God's Word, live out that life and apply it to God's Word. We can get revived through the Word of God. Will my influence help somebody or will it hinder them with what I am doing. Will you be a good soldier for Christ and be able to fight Satan. Let your light shine bright for Christ's teachings. Dress to be more pleasing to God. Our heart and outward appearance must work together. Let us cling close to God. Be very cautious of slang words. Do not use them. Do not tell dirty jokes. Stylish paraphernalia should not be worn. There is a blessing for the one who lays aside worldly attire. Be ye a separate people. Many Satanic influences are around us. Keep away from it. It's the powers of darkness. We need to be aware of cult teachings. Beware of unclean reading. If depression comes to you look to God for help. He is willing to help us in our problems if we repent and give our hearts to Him.

Elder David Skiles closed. A mystery illness in the Southwest. God's Word is not a mystery. Many other things are a mystery. The salt of the earth is not a mystery. There is a time coming when we are going to cross over to death. Are you young folks ready to meet your God?

Monday Morning Worship

Elder Galen Litfin. II Thessalonians 2:1. God created us. Jesus said, "I bought you." Our soul lives within us. The Holy Spirit is with us. What is life? Life is a living soul and the breath of God. The Holy Spirit produces fruit, Love, Joy and Peace.

Monday A.M.

Bro. Fred Johnson opened. Psalm 73:1-17. The wicked and sinful people will be in great destruction.

Bible Study-Adults - "Hardened Through the Deceitfulness of Sin." Hebrews 3:1-19.

Bible Study-Children - "Israel Delivered by God." Exodus 14:1-31.

Bro. Paul Nell. Matthew 4:10. "Worship." What does worship mean? Worship God in Spirit and in truth. How shall we worship in a reverent devotion? God knows everything. We can't hide any thing from God. Jesus said, "Will I find faith on the earth when I come?" We need to worship God and Him only, and not a cult. Do we thank Him for all our blessings? In the last days men are more unthankful. The New Age wants to put God in the background. We should today speak against the sins of this world to the people.

Bro. Mark Andrews closed. God helps us to live more righteous and holy lives if we will live more true to Him.

Monday P.M.

Bro. David Aungst opened. Mark 12:41, Mark 14:3. The woman gave her little amount of money for the Lord. She was rewarded greatly for giving her little mite to Christ. The woman that anointed Christ with the expensive ointment was greatly rewarded for giving what she had.

Bro. Ronald Marks. Jeremiah 4. "Set Up the Standard." What is a standard? It is a device to determine accuracy. What regard does the Church have for the Bible? There is a falling away from the truth of the Word of God. We are a chosen generation. If we are the Church we must let our light shine to the world. What do we have to give to the lost world? What is our testimony? If the Church had respect for the standards of the Church our nations would be different in many ways.

Bro. Gordon Jamison. Numbers 13:1-3, 17, 33; Numbers 14:1-24. "Climbing A Mountain." We are in the end times. The Children of Israel saw the Promised Land. Some didn't see it correctly. We are looking forward to our Heavenly Home just like the Children of Israel and the Promised Land. We are to be witnesses to all the world. We can tell all the world about Jesus Christ with help of the Lord. The Lord called us out to see the Promised Land, our Heavenly Home. Why do we wander out in the wilderness sometimes? Are we one of them that say, "I just don't care" while wondering in the wilderness. You will miss the Promised Land, Heaven. God will lead you out and you can still be one of His. The Lord has called us to be His servants. Pride is a wilderness and God hates it. Don't indulge in wilderness wandering. The truth will make you free. There is a great work to be done. Jesus Christ has overcome the world. Let's lay everything aside, endure and keep on working for the Lord.

Bro. Jason Reed closed. The Harvest is great. The laborers are few. God's Word is our standard.

To Be Continued
Sister Alice Heisey

THE META-CHURCH MOVEMENT

"The term Meta-Church is becoming quite common,...meta means change, and the change envisioned by this process is that cell groups of approximately ten people become the central unit in the life of the church." Thus reads the leading paragraph in a Christian newspaper.

David Barrett, author of the World Christian Encyclopedia gives the following statistics. In 1430 AD only one person in one hundred was a Bible-believing Christian. But by 1940 one in thirty-three was a believer. By 1980 one in seventeen was a Christian. By 1983 one person in fourteen was a Christian, by 1986 one person in twelve was a Christian, and today one person in ten, world-wide, is a believer in Jesus.

With these two thoughts in mind we would like to express a few thoughts taken from Psalm 67. "God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah. That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations." While the two opening paragraphs were taken from two different sources we find a common theme being presented, at least in the minds of many. We are not sure if it is merely coincidental or not that the second paragraph starts out with "Bible believing Christian" and ends with "a believer in Jesus." It is the desire of all who name the name of Jesus that God would be merciful unto us, and bless us, and cause his face to shine upon us. But how many desire "that thy way may be known upon earth"?

Today it seems like the Meta-Church movement, though it may not be called that, is the popular trend. Little groups get together, here and there, and decide which portions of Scripture are for today. Well known leaders within the organized church are encouraging such groups to accept change and to throw off the bonds of church rules and regulations.

"Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah." Yes, God desires the praise of His people. We, who are born again through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, can be glad and sing for joy. But let us never forget that God shall judge the people righteously and govern the nations upon earth. If we give individuals false hope outside of the revealed Word of God we will be held accountable.

Small groups have decided that the virgin birth is no longer an absolute for salvation. But God has not changed His mind on this. Other small groups have decided that Hell is not really a place of eternal punishment. But this does not change the truth of the Word of God. At one time in history small groups got together and decided that the prayer veil was no longer needed for women. Today the majority teach this. But God's Holy Word has not changed.

"Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us." We can show our praise to God in various ways. We do not believe that God is impressed with how loud we

praise Him, although we are not opposed to expressing our praise in outward demonstration. However, we have serious reservations concerning those who look and dress like the world while making a joyful noise unto the Lord. Those involved in the Meta-Church movement, for the most part, would encourage individuals to "just be themselves." We have to wonder how much evidence of a born again life is present in the "one person in ten worldwide who is a believer in Jesus." In reality we have to wonder if the statistics for 1430 AD "one person in one hundred" is even high enough for today!

Has the Meta-Church spirit had any influence on our Dunkard Brethren Church? We believe the answer is obvious. While we are not aware of any organized "cell groups" within our denomination, change is the theme of the day. When we share with a prisoner or with an individual from another country, which we do from time to time, we realize that many of our customs and practices will seem foreign to them. We sometimes wonder what their reaction is to some of the Bible Monitor articles. At such times the plain hat and bonnet, which for all practical purposes have been lost, seem to be matters better left go. But we have to wonder if this is not a sign of a loss of other SCRIPTURAL teachings that may be lost also.

"God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him." We have an obligation to share the DEMANDS of God as well as His blessings. The fear of the Lord is fast becoming a thing of the past. God demands a holy life. Men say this is not important. God demands modesty in dress. Men teach that this is a rule of men. Jesus Christ, God the Son, teaches a life of nonresistance and peace with all men. Men say that it is impossible to live in this manner.

If we follow the Meta-Church philosophy it may soon be one person in three who is a "believer in Jesus." But will God really be honored and will individuals really be ready for Heaven?

Brother James M. Hite
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MIRACLES OF CHRIST AS RECORDED IN GOD'S WORD

14. He Curses The Fig Tree

Matthew 21:17-22

The fig tree and the olive tree are similar since they both provide for mankind in many ways. Both trees are common to Palestine.

The fig tree provided fuel. Figs were used for certain remedies. They were dried and preserved. Cakes of figs were dried and sent by Abigail to David. Aprons made of fig leaves were worn by Adam and Eve.

The olive tree was just as beneficial to humans. Its wood was burned for heat and to cook with. A dove carried a branch of an olive tree to Noah as a sign that the flood waters were abating.

Both provided edible fruit.

Jesus lodged in the city of Bethany that night. But before He came to Bethany He healed the blind and the lame. When the Chief Priests and scribes heard of that, they were sorely displeased. The many, including children, who saw the healings cried out, "Hosanna to the Son of David."

This turned the scribes and Pharisees against Him. Jesus said unto them, "Yea; have ye not read, Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?"

The morning came and He left the city, hungered, and when He saw a fig tree along the way, He came to it, but there was no fruit, only leaves. He said to the fig tree, "Let not fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever."

Presently, the fig tree withered away. The disciples marveled at how fast the fig tree withered.

It was a very noticeable change in the fig tree. It produced no fruit and was of no value to anybody. **GET THE LESSON JESUS IS TEACHING US.**

WE MUST BEAR SPIRITUAL FRUIT, OR WE WILL BE LIKE THE BRANCHES ON ANOTHER TREE, CUT OFF AND BURNED.

Jesus was disappointed at the barren tree. If we fail to bear spiritual fruit, He will be disappointed in us. **MAY WE STRIVE TO PLEASE HIM.**

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44718

SIXTY YEARS AGO

August 15, 1933

SIN AND THE CHURCH

Z. L. Bussear

Sin is any word, action, commission or desire contrary to the law of God.

We find the original sin was the first man, Adam, when he rebelled against God. Paul in writing to the Romans (5:19) said

that in one man's disobedience many were made sinners and this sin was communicated to the whole human family. The psalmist David realized this when he said (51:5), "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." James 1:15 says, "... sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

Sin and death entered into the world by the malice of the devil and Adam by his disobedience and yielding to the temptation of Satan has made us all guilty in the eyes of God. Now what is the remedy?

God looked down on this sin cursed earth and so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him might not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:15) So as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin so death passed upon all men. (Rom. 5:12) For all have sinned, but as in Adam all die so in Christ all shall be made alive (I Cor. 15:22) for as the first man, Adam was made a living soul the last Adam (meaning Christ) was made a quickening spirit. (I Cor. 15:45) Then Jesus Christ by His death has restored life to us, by His obedience He has reconciled us to God for God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. (II Cor. 5:19)

Our Savior says in Matt. 12:31-32, "... All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto man: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men," or in other words denying the power of the Holy Spirit. Now should not the attitude of the church toward sin be the same as that of Christ? For we find in that wonderful prayer in John 17, these words: "... Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are... And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one.

As Jesus was passing down the street of Capernaum one day He saw Levi sitting at the receipt of custom, a man of wealth and business ability and He said unto him, "Follow Me," and he arose and followed Him and directly after this Matthew made a feast in order that he might present Jesus to some of his friends and companions, the Pharisees complained of Him for eating with Publicans and sinners. Jesus said unto them that they are whole need not a physician, but they that are sinners. I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. (Matt. 9:12-13) We find this same attitude toward the woman at the well, as He sat there tired and thirsty He became so interested in this Samaritan sinner He drew from her a confession that she was living the life of an adulterous. That she was desirous of a better life and that He was the Christ, (John 4) and she immediately left her water pot and went into the city and told her experience and many came unto Him.

Then Jesus on His way from Galilee to Jerusalem came in contact with Zacchaeus, a publican, a sinner, a man who had come

to his wealth possibly through dishonesty, yet when he confessed his sin and made right his wrongs Jesus said, "... This day is salvation come to this house,... For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:9-10)

The thief that was crucified along side of Christ confessed his guilt and just reward for his deed asked Jesus that he might have mercy for him. Jesus said, "... Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:42-43) As Jesus hung on the cross suspended between heaven and earth he prayed for his assassins, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

Did Jesus consult His disciples who should come into their number as His followers? On a certain occasion when the disciples found one casting out devils in Jesus' name they forbid him, but Jesus says, "Forbid him not," and also another time, they asked if they should call down fire from heaven to consume a certain village because it would not receive them. He rebuked and said, "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of." (Luke 9:45-55)

Has the church any right today to wave this one aside and say you are a thief we cannot use you, or you are an adulterous, we don't dare to take you in, or you have taken life, there is no repentance for you?

Isa. 1:18 says, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Then why not let those benighted souls come and fall as it were at the foot of the cross and cry out as one fold, "Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin." (Psalms 51:2)

I hear Jesus say something like this, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man will hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." (Rev. 3:20) "... If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Matt. 16:24)

SING SONGS

To sing these songs of Zion
Just makes my spirits rise,
Until thy are a-soring
Far up into the skies.

What joy it must give God
To hear His children sing
Praises and glory to Him –
And to His Son, our King.

- Irene Stout

NEWS ITEMS**PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA**

The Lord willing, the Pleasant Home Congregation plans a one week Revival August 29 through September 5, 1993. Bro. Phil Gish from Ohio will be our Evangelist.

Everyone is welcome to these meetings. Remember us in prayer if you cannot be with us.

Sister Edith Moss, Cor.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Waynesboro Congregation is looking forward to our Revival Meetings September 5 through 12, 1993. Bro. Paul Hartz from Palmyra, Pennsylvania will be our Evangelist. Pray and come worship with us.

Danny Bare, husband of Sis. Charlene Bare, and Lee Whip were baptized May 23. Wesley and Jenny Long, children of Bruce and Sis. Darlene Log, Bryan and Karla Stitely, children of Sis. Linda Stitely were baptized June 13. We are thankful for these souls who have committed their lives to the Lord. May we remember them in prayer.

Sister Janet Shaffer, Cor.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Lord willing, the Pleasant Ridge Congregation will have their Harvest Meeting on September 26, 1993.

Our Fall Lovefeast will be on November 13 and 14.

A warm welcome to all who can come and worship with us.

Sister Marjorie Flory, Cor.

GRAND VIEW, MISSOURI

Lord willing, The Grand View Congregation will begin a one week Revival Meeting Sunday, September 5, 1993. We are looking forward to hearing inspiring messages from Bro. Ray Stuber of Felton, Pennsylvania. There will be all day service Saturday and Sunday, September 11-12, with Lovefeast Saturday evening, 6 p.m.

Pray for Bro. Ray as he brings God's Word to us, and for those who have not excepted Him as their Saviour.

Sister Sandra Meyers, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1993

September 5 - Sins and Forgiveness - Matthew 18:15-35.

1. What should be our goal when going to a trespassing brother?
2. What should motivate us to forgive unconditionally? (Matt. 6:12)

September 12 - Marriage and Divorce - Matthew 19:1-12.

1. Why did Moses allow the putting away of a companion?
(verse 8)
2. What is God's plan for the duration of a marriage?

September 19 - "What Good Thing Shall I Do?" - Matthew 19:13-30.

1. What was lacking in the life of the rich young ruler?
2. What does Jesus say are the rewards of discipleship?

September 26 - Parable of the Householder - Matthew 20:1-16.

1. What is the spiritual application of this parable?
2. How does the sovereignty of God relate to our rewards for service?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1993

September 5 - Foolishness - Ps. 53:1-6, Pro. 14:9, Pro. 28:26, Luke 11:39-40.

1. What are the symptoms of foolishness?
2. What is the prescription for foolishness? (Pro. 8:5)

September 12 - Fishers of Men - Matt. 4:16-25.

1. Why did Jesus use the term "fishers of men"?
2. Is our response to the Master's call like the disciples' in verse 20.

September 19 - Thoughtfulness - Jos. 1:8-9, Ps. 4:4-5, Ps. 19:13-14,
I Tim. 4:14-15.

1. Why is our thought life so important? (Pro. 23:7)
2. What are the blessings of meditation on God's Word?

September 26 - Enemies - Pro. 24:17-18, Pro. 25:21-22,
Matt. 5:43-45, Rom. 12:20.

1. How did Jesus say we should feel toward our enemies?
2. What key to making peace with our enemies is found in Pro. 16:7?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 17

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

MAKE ME A WORKER FOR JESUS

Make me a worker for Jesus,
Steadfast and earnest and true;
Willing to work for the Master,
What he would have me to do.

Let me be brave in the conflict,
Ready to go where he needs,
Sowing good seed for the harvest,
Plucking up briars and weeds.

Let me go out to the harvest,
Faithfully doing my part,
Gathering sheaves for the gleaning,
Steadfast of purpose and heart.

Make me a worker for Jesus,
Trusting him never in vain,
Glad if I bind for the Master,
Sheaves of God's beautiful grain.

- Eben E. Rexford

PETER AND CORNELIUS

Acts 10 gives an account of the first organized sharing of the Gospel with the Gentiles. There had been some contacts even during Jesus' ministry, but these had been individuals who expressed some interest or amazement at His words or deeds. The early experiences of the Church had been with believing Jews. The leadership of the Church was composed of Jews, for like Jesus, the Apostles were Jews.

The conversion of Cornelius and his family and friends primarily involves two men. These men might never have come together if it had not been for the Holy Spirit's dealing with them. They would not have moved in the same social circles, nor would they have had anything in common. There were changes that were necessary for each of them to make before they would come together.

Cornelius was a Roman centurion, so he commanded at least one hundred troops. The Romans were hated by the Jews, whom they had conquered. The Jews did only what was required of them. Often the Romans were mean and hardhearted toward the Jews, but Cornelius was different. He was concerned about these conquered people and he was especially interested in the God they worshipped. He had been so kind as to build a synagogue for them in Caesarea.

In his personal life he was devout. He was a good moral man, unlike most of the soldiers. He prayed to the God of the Jews and he was generous in sharing with those who were in need. With such a lifestyle, it might be thought that he was on safe ground, but he needed to make a change. The things that he had done were good and God had taken note of them. The angel that appeared to

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Cornelius told him that God remembered these good things, but yet there was something more that was needed. He must send for Simon Peter who was at Joppa on the seacoast at that time. Simon would come and tell him what he lacked.

Cornelius was like many today. He was a good, moral person, but he did not have a personal relationship with God, through Jesus Christ. All of his philanthropy and goodness could not replace his acceptance of the plan of salvation.

There was a change needed in Peter's life and thinking at this time. As Cornelius' servants were approaching the house where Peter was staying, hungry Peter was on the housetop awaiting his meal. While there God dealt with him through a very unusual vision. A sheet tied at the four corners and containing all kinds of animals, beasts and insects was let down in front of him. When it opened he was told to kill and to eat that food. This he refused to do, for as a lifelong Jew he had never eaten anything not approved by the dietary law. After his refusal, God told him not to consider anything cleansed by God to be common or unclean. After this happened three times, Peter wondered just what lesson God was trying to give him. He didn't have long to wait to find out.

The messengers from Cornelius arrived at the house at this time. Peter welcomed them to spend the night. The next morning he accompanied them to Cornelius' house. When Peter arrived there he found Cornelius had gathered together his kinfolk and friends. Cornelius had had enough faith that he believed that the journey of his messengers would not be in vain. He had prepared for the arrival of Peter. He wanted those closest to him to hear what God wanted them to hear through Peter. The Spirit of God was working in a mighty way through these two men.

There was a great revival as Peter preached to this most unlikely gathering. Peter proclaimed Jesus Christ as the perfect sacrifice of God, who had suffered, died and arose from the grave. This revival would not have happened if there had not been a change in these two men. Cornelius recognized that his human goodness was not sufficient. Peter recognized that the gospel was intended for the Gentiles as well as the Jews.

Many Christians need to make changes like Peter. They need not compromise the Biblical doctrines, nor their lifestyles based on those doctrines. However, each Christian must continually examine his life, heart and mind. It is usually the attitude, rather than the belief or the lifestyle that needs to be changed. A lack of sharing or doing may be the fault of some. There is always room for improvement in a Christian's life.

Peter and Cornelius, each, needed to change. When they did the revival was great. Those same changes are needed today.

Have you established your relationship with God, through Jesus Christ? Without that relationship you can have no Spiritual blessings, no matter how good or sharing you may be. Christian, do you have an attitude adjustment to make in your thinking and doing? Without it you cannot be an instrument of God in bringing revival.

Whether you are a Peter or a Cornelius, make the needed changes for your good and the good of others.

MCC

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"HUMOR"

Humor... laughter... are they a part of the Christian life?

First of all, let us establish that the Christian life is a sober life in that we understand the seriousness of a commitment to Christ and we also understand the reality of eternal judgment. But, the Bible also recognizes the therapeutic value of humor too. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." (Prov. 17:22) In fact, if you are a person of no humor, you will probably be a person who takes medicine!

Just because the Gospels do not relate the smiles and laughing of Jesus does not mean that He did neither. In reality, only thirty-five days of His entire ministry are mentioned and some of these in small fragments.

Jesus was a Man of joy as well as a Man of sorrows. He desired that "our joy would be full." Though the shadow of the cross enveloped His ministry and gravity, the Gospels picture Him optimistic, serene, and entering into the joys of the people. He attended weddings, resorted often to the relaxed atmosphere of the Bethany home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus and He told a parable in which a father made merry at the return of his prodigal son. All these reflect a lightheartedness of character, despite the gloomy opinions of some people.

The Bible would illustrate that the Pharisees thought they were so pious that they couldn't even smile. As a result, they turned off most everyone around them and Jesus condemned them for it. We will never be able to reach out to anyone if we can't smile, laugh and be happy. Remember, it was Jesus who created laughter. And in many of His illustrations... we can see the humor there. Pointed lessons, yes... but given in a humorous way.

But, we do need to laugh and smile without losing our inner peace. It really concerns me that much of what people smile and laugh about today is trash and dirty jokes or statements. It is not even unusual to hear a "Christian" tell an off-colored story and this is not the humor that we would find acceptable under any circumstance.

Sometimes we just need to see ourselves a bit more lightheartedly. We need to see some humor there. May we feel the freedom to see life and nature and smile... appreciating some of the humor in it.

Brother Len Wertz

ABOVE ALL THINGS

I Peter 4:8, "And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins."

When the Holy Scriptures wishes to go beyond the frivolous emotion that the world calls "love," it often uses the word "charity." "Charity" expresses more than an emotion, although it includes that. It is a word that demands an action. The scriptural "charity" also goes beyond the idea of giving of our goods to help those in need, although it includes that also.

Peter tells us that we are to have fervent charity among ourselves. The original meaning of "fervent" was, "to glow or to boil". Many times our faces glow with anger with one another and the heated words boil over. But how many times does our love for one another cause our faces to glow and Christian charity boils over with feelings too strong to express?

Above all things we are to have this type of charity among ourselves. Anyone that knows us or has read our efforts at writing knows that we have a great love and respect for Brethren tradition. But our fervent charity among ourselves must go beyond our love for tradition. Down through the years tradition has been the reason for many splits in various groups. It is sometimes difficult to accept the changes we see taking place. But if a scriptural principle is not being challenged we must accept a change with Christian charity.

Some of us have strong convictions in one area and others in another area. True Christian charity will allow us to accept our differences in spite of our personal convictions. It is all too easy to behold the mote that is in our brother's eye, but consider not the beam that is in our own eye!

Does our Christian charity allow us to go beyond our ethnic origins? While we respect those who still use the German language in their worship services in a land where English is the predominant language we are glad that the Brethren have seen the need of a change in this area. We often wish that we could speak and understand the "Pennsylvania Dutch" that our ancestors spoke at home. But we also often wish we could speak and understand the many other languages we come in contact with.

"For charity shall cover the multitude of sins." This is not an excuse to overlook sin. True Christian charity does not excuse sin

but desires to expose it. Is there any hatred in our hearts towards a brother or a sister? How about strife among ourselves? Do we ever envy anyone because of their abilities or possessions? The Bible says such things in our heart will keep us from inheriting the kingdom of God.

If we harbor these things in our heart we are not fit to judge what others are preaching and teaching. There are also other areas that we struggle with as individuals. Since very few, if any, of us can claim to be free of the sins of the flesh does it really matter what we do in our personal lives? True Christian charity desires for all to come to the perfect truth and knowledge of Holy Scripture. The fact that some preachers classify Scriptural truth as church tradition does not change the Word of God.

If there is any difficulty in having fervent charity among ourselves it is here. Some would make the "above all things" include the acceptance of sinful life styles. Others would have you believe that our outward appearance is not important to God. We should love one another in the same way that we show love towards our family. However, there is one important difference between our natural family and our spiritual family. If we have children they may cause us heartache by not following the things we have taught them but we do not believe we should ever disown them as our children. However, the Bible clearly teaches that a disobedient brother or sister is not to be accepted into fellowship unless they repent.

Another problem area is sharing fervent charity with those who do not share our beliefs and practices. We are convinced that if we truly love someone we will stand firm on what we believe the Bible teaches. We feel very strongly that true Bible baptism is by trine immersion. Yet we feel a true kindred spirit towards some that feel that pouring is the correct baptismal method. We believe that strings on our sister's prayer veils serve a purpose and should be kept. Yet we have a real Christian love for those who do not have strings on their prayer veils. We realize that some will judge us as being too liberal, but we are pleased that we have observed brothers greeting brothers and sisters greeting sisters of another denomination with the holy kiss. We have also felt good about being accepted and greeted by others in this way.

When fervent charity among ourselves is practiced above all things we will have peace within the body of Christ. We believe this is pleasing to God. Jesus Christ loved us enough to die on the cross and shed His precious blood for us. Not one of us is worthy of this type of love. Can we then withhold love from one another?

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
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SIXTY YEARS AGO

September 1, 1933

THE SUPREME NEED OF THE CHURCH TODAY

J. H. Beer

That the church is face to face with new and trying conditions the thoughtful minister is convinced. The church has toiled and suffered, and is not without great honor among us today; but it behooves us to realize that she is facing the powers of darkness in these times, in a way she never has before, at least that calls for heroism, if she is to fulfill the purpose that was in the mind of Christ when He sent her forth into the world. The church which was in the ages hidden in God, but later revealed to men on earth, has in our day become so hidden in the world, that we use the phrase the rediscovery of the church. We would stir the Christian of our day to a realization that the schools and social clubs cannot be classed in the same category with the church. They cannot rightfully be represented as on an equality with the church, they are enterprises of human devising.

During the war many enterprises, some commendable and some the very opposite classifying the church as only one of the valuable institutions of a community, placing the church on a level with other public institutions, which has taken an astonishing hold upon the people. If we are to re-discover the church we must cast away the rubbish which was thrown over her when she was classed on the low level with modern Christendom.

We must get beneath the surface. (Eph. 1:22-23), "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all." We must discard the idea that high school boys may deliver addresses on how to conduct the church, and that the church is the outrigger of popular amusements.

The church was dear to the heart of Christ. (Eph. 5:25-26), "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word." (I Cor. 1:2), "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, ..." Men who are not gathered out of men, are not of her.

The church being composed of saved sinners, makes her boast of Him who saves, and urges that He and He alone, is worthy of such an enterprise how dear the church is to Jesus Christ, starting at His heart (the act is settled) the church is sanctified and cleansed by the washing of water by the word that He might present it unto Himself a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle. He gave Himself for it, that He might present it to Himself.

It is too costly to be cheapened, if our Lord treasures it so dearly, we must not think to hold as ordinary.

What the church stands for: We learn from His word that it is something definite, of heavenly origin, the gathering out of souls, united in oneness in Him, and they are called His body, the message like the church is too emphatically authoritative to be degraded to the low level of human advisory. And yet there is a persistent effort to make the church the instrument of questionable amusement and of indulgences which are evidently freighted with destruction.

(From the Home Review) The sauer kraut supper held in the parlors of the ... church, Thursday evening, January 26th, was a very excellent one and was largely attended. A display sign on the corner of a large church building reads, "One night of frolic each week... a series of Bible expositions during passion week is to be followed by a minstrel show in the same church auditorium on Good Friday night." What ever the condition of the people promoting such as this, it is evident there is a plain duty for those who believe God's word, and are in the way of life, to give to those who will hear in this day, a re-discovery of the church.

There is a necessity of calling the people from the surfeit of human opinion and theory to the plain, whole message of the word of God. The drift of the times is too nearly Bibleless to be truly Christian.

(I Pet. 4:17-18) "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" (Rev. 18:4), "... Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

1993 GENERAL CONFERENCE SERMON NOTES

Continued from August 15, 1993 Issue

Monday Evening

Elder William Heisey opened. Jeremiah 12. We must be sincere in our faith when we worship God. God gave Jeremiah's people the second chance to change and not worship Baal. If they failed to change, He told them they would be puked out.

Elder Michael Wray. Hebrews 10:1-18. "Forgiven and Forgotten." To be born again is to be changed from the inside out. When Jesus died on the cross He forgave us from our sins. He shed His blood for remission of our sins. We must be willing to forgive one another or our Father in Heaven cannot forgive our sins.

Elder Hayes Reed. John 19:1-7. "Behold the Man." Jealously is very severe feeling to get into the hearts of people. Scourging was

a very severe weapon used on Christ. His body was badly torn on the cross. Stephen was treated severely by the people. He was stoned to death. The Apostle Paul was a man of God who was treated severely by the people. He too would have given his life for Christ and His teachings. Apostle Paul and Silas were put in jail for teaching the people about Christ. Christ performed many miracles while here in this world. Christ was a very loving person so willing to heal the sick. Lets show our Lord Jesus Christ we are willing to take up that cross and follow Him. Jesus said, "I will build my church upon a rock and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it."

Tuesday Morning Worship

Elder Ray Reed. II Timothy 1:1-14. Timothy had a high calling. He was to be a good soldier of Christ. We should live the life that we possess true for the Lord. Our testimony reaches out from among us. Lets live in the footsteps of Jesus.

Tuesday A.M.

Bro. James Meyers opened. Isaiah 5:1-7. God has given us the opportunity to go and spread the news of the Holy Word.

Bible Study - Adults - "Receiving Rest by Faith." Hebrews 4:1-16.

Bible Study - Children - "Joseph Forgives His Brethren." Genesis 45:1-28.

Bro. Jason Reed. II Chronicles 7:14. "An Anabaptist Position on National Issues." There is a very much sin in our nation. In the Dark Ages the people were deprived of the Bible, God's Holy Word. The people failed to ask God for help during the Dark Ages. There was a State Church, which forced people into membership. Justification means we give our lives over to Jesus Christ. The Protestants believed in the Holy Word. They didn't go along with the State Church. Anabaptists believed that the scriptures should be lived out. They believed in baptism, justification and sanctification went hand in hand. Many Anabaptists lost their lives because of the teaching of the Holy Word. God's people should live true to the Holy Word. God's people have the salt and the light for the world. Our Nation has lost the salt and the light of the Savior. Christ forgives sins. God calls the church to separate living for every one. Anabaptists took a stand to be a separate people. The Churches dare not lower their standards. They should be faithful to the Word of God. We must keep the commandments of the Lord our God. A Biblical Church is a separated Church.

Bro. Merle Sweitzer closed. Are you willing to stand for Christ's teachings or will you try to compromise?

Tuesday P.M.

Missionary Program. Bro. Marlin Marks opened. Matthew 25:31-46. We should reach out to those who are in need of a Savior.

Bro. Kenneth Wilkerson. Prison ministry is not new. Isaiah 61:1. Isaiah was given a burden by God to visit the prisons and teach the prisoners the Holy Word. There is a need for this Mission. Jesus came to seek and to save those who are lost.

Bro. Ronald Marks closed.

Tuesday Evening.

Elder Harley Rush opened. Ephesians 6:10-20. It's important to visit the prisons and teach the Holy Word to the prisoners. There will be a Heavenly home for each of us to look forward to. Be strong in the Lord. Put on the whole armor of God. We must stand for Christ who built His Church on the solid rock. Let us undertake to be more humble.

Elder Herman Jamison. Luke 19:11, John 1:29, Matthew 18:19-20. "The Harvest." Christ is the Lord of the Harvest. Christ came to seek those who are lost. God wants His servants to seek for the lost souls. Satan is seeking and trying to deceive all he can. He knows his time is short. Christ said learn of me. He is a living example. We should humble ourselves and live according to His teachings. We should forget self and seek for those lost souls. The Lord is tenderly calling because of His love and concern.

Wednesday Morning Worship.

Elder Edward Johnson. Matthew 7:24-28. Jesus went up on the mountain and the rest came unto Him. What are we doing with the Holy Word? Will our names be written in the Lamb's Book of Life?

Sister Alice Heisey

MIRACLES OF CHRIST AS RECORDED IN GOD'S WORD

15. Jesus Heals the Blind Man

Matthew 8:1-4

Many of Jesus' miracles were mountain top experiences. Many miracles were performed near, at or on mountains. For anyone to accompany Christ to a mountain and there be healed of their afflictions was a truly mountain top experience, both being with Christ on top of a mountain and it would be a mountain top experience to be healed.

Immediately before this miracle took place Jesus was atop this mountain comparing buildings on the rock to building on the sand. When He came down the mountain, multitudes followed Him, indicating that great multitudes followed Him up the mountain.

A leper came and worshiped Him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me whole. That showed the faith that man had in Jesus. Do we have such faith?

Jesus put forth His hand and touched him and immediately the leprosy was cleansed. Jesus asked the cleansed leper to go on his way, but tell no man. That would be hard to comply with, especially to old friends who knew the former condition of the man. **JESUS SOUGHT NO PRAISE OR PUBLICITY IN ANY OR ALL OF HIS WORKS.**

He did tell the healed leper to go his way and shew himself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded for a testimony.

After this miracle was performed multitudes could witness the fact that Jesus had the ability and capability to heal all and every manner of disease, regardless how far advanced the disease was.

Why should He not know how? He had a part in the creation.

I again want to get your minds firmly settled that as sure as Jesus made no mistake in healing the body. He will in no way fail to heal the soul.

HOW GREAT GOD IS.

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44718

PLAYING WITH FIRE

I Corinthians 7:1, "... It is good for a man not to touch a woman."

In the gospel song entitled, "Life's Railway to Heaven," the chorus tells us to "Keep your hand upon the throttle, and your eye upon the rail." On life's trip to heaven this is very good advice.

A good friend of mine went along to campmeeting with us not too long ago. The crowd was mostly composed of plain people. My friend made himself comfortable in the back row. Later he told me, as well as the brother who preached, that he couldn't hear the message because the young folks in the back rows were having their own meeting, of a different sort. He went into great detail, but we will not repeat it here. Shame on us for letting these things happen! Shame on us for having to be told these things by others!

Young people: time is short! Keep your hand upon the throttle, not your boy friend or girl friend! There was a good reason why the Brethren of old sat the women on one side and the men on the other side. Church is for worship first — socialization should be reserved for after the service, and should be more subdued. If young people are doing such things in the House of the Lord, what in the world are they doing elsewhere? They are playing with fire, and most assuredly they will get burned. It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Can God overlook this flagrant disregard for His Majesty and Authority?

The church needs to keep the devil from taking our children and using them against us. It should be made clear that our meeting-

houses have been dedicated to the work of the Lord. We do not need to allow such evil to take place in the House of the Lord. We CANNOT let the devil take over the worship service. Let us take a stand against sin. We love those young people and want to see them serve God. We want to see them in Heaven. But they must respect the House of God, as well as the people of God that gather in His Name. Some would say that if we speak to them, they will leave. I believe that if they are spoken to in love, only God's will will happen.

In I Timothy 3:15 we are admonished that we "oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God." How important it is to show reverence unto the Lord of Glory!

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD #2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

Testing Things

J. H. Moore

I once spent several hours with a successful farmer, and the conversation drifted onto seed corn, for the farmers at that time were planting their crops. On account of the short season the summer before, the farmer's corn did not ripen well, so he sent away for seed corn. When the corn arrived he took one hundred grains and planted them in a box that was kept in a warm room. In due time the corn grew and one hundred sprouts were counted. He knew from this that every grain of his seed corn could be depended upon. He said that he never planted corn without first testing it in this way.

His experience put me to thinking about testing people and even doctrines and methods. It might be well for the church to test men before placing too great responsibilities on them. If they are to be placed in charge of mission points, we should know what may be expected of them. Men for this class of work should first be faithful, and then they should show that they have the ability to teach others. Without these two special qualifications they ought not to be entrusted with important and far-reaching duties.

Ministers should also be tested before they are advanced to the second degree of the ministry, or before they are ordained at least. It is one thing for a young brother to be elected to the ministry, but quite another thing for him to preach. If, after a fair trial, it becomes evident that he cannot preach, why should he be advanced! His efforts, while in the first degree, ought to settle the question as to whether he has the ability to become a useful

minister. The same principle might apply to ministers before they are ordained.

We need not test what is plainly stated in the Bible, for we know that to be correct. But we may have ideas of our own that need to be tested. Possibly a little testing might convince us that we are mistaken. A theory that will not pass muster with the best informed Bible students and the most devout Christians, might well put its advocates to thinking. I know that the minority is often in the right, but this does not prove that the majority is always mistaken. "Prove all things," says Paul, "and hold fast that which is good."

Our methods, or ways of doing things, might be tested, and if they will not stand the test, they should be dropped, or exchanged for others. A method may work all right for one generation and yet not be the thing for the next generation. Nothing short of the best should satisfy the earnest Christian worker; hence the importance of proving, or testing all things. We can judge the methods by the results. If these are not satisfactory there may be something wrong, and if we are wise we will refuse to hold fast that which is not good.

There are people who are afraid to have their pet theories, or favorite methods, tested. They feel too uncertain about the results. They think that what has all along been good enough for them, should be good enough for everybody else. They may be right, and then, on the other hand, they may be mistaken. Proving all things, as Paul suggests, would settle it, and why not have it settled? The good will always stand the test. Yes, why not be as wise as was the wide-awake farmer who tested his corn before planting it?

ALWAYS WITH JESUS

Gladys Hann

Think of Jesus in the morning.
Think of Jesus through the day.
Feel His Presence ever near you
As you bow your head to pray.

Talk to Jesus in the morning.
Talk to Jesus through the day.
Always seek His loving guidance
In everything you do or say.

Walk with Jesus in the morning.
Walk with Jesus through the day.
Ever be in sweet communion
With your Savior all the way.

Past life's pitfalls let Him lead you.
 Never stray too far behind,
 Then at night as sleep o'ertakes you
 Peace and comfort you will find.

Selected by Sister Blanche Eberly

OBITUARY

ANNA KELLER

Sister Anna (Stauffer) Keller was born June 10, 1934 and passed away July 30, 1993 at 59 years, one month of age. She is survived by her two sons, Michael and Richard Keller, two grandsons, Tyler and Justin, her mother, Emma Stauffer, two sisters, Mary Rauser and Martha Eberly, and two brothers, Abram and Edwin Stauffer. Her husband, Titus, preceded her in death in 1992. Anna was a member of the Lititz Dunkard Brethren Church.

Funeral services were held on August 3 at the Lititz Church with ministers Allen Eberly (brother-in-law) and Jim Eberly (nephew) officiating. Burial was in the Millbach Cemetery with Elder Rudy Shaffer conducting the committal services.

We want to express our thanks to each of you who have remembered us, and our mother while she was yet living, with cards of encouragement, visits of cheer and your prayers.

Michael and Marcie Keller
 Richard Keller

NEWS ITEMS

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation plans a Harvest Meeting for September 12. Bro. Dennis St. John will be the speaker. All are invited to this Service!

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

McCLAVE, COLORADO

The McClave Congregation is looking forward to Revival Meetings to be held September 19-26, 1993. Lord willing, Bro. Robert Lehigh from Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania will be our evangelist. We enthusiastically invite each of you to come and worship with us and uphold us in your prayers.

Sister Vicki Burgess, Cor.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Bethel Congregation plans to have Revival Meetings, September 19 through 26. Bro. Mark Cordrey from the Pleasant Home Congregation, California will be our evangelist. Please pray that sinners will be saved and the saints will accept the challenge and commit themselves to a closer walk with the Lord.

Three souls accepted the Lord in our Spring Revivals with Bro. Mark Andrews: Dana Aungst, Laura Aungst and Lorah Reed. Please continue to pray for them that they will pray, read, and study God's Word daily, so they will grow into mighty soldiers for the Lord. May we encourage one another! Come and worship with us!

Sister Sylvia Noecker, Cor.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing we are planning a ten day Revival Meeting, October 8 through 17, 1993. Bro. Paul Hartz from Mechanicsburg has consented to bring the messages. Please come and pray for these meetings.

Sister Dorcas Myers, Cor.

THANK YOU

A note of special thanks to all who visited me while I was in the hospital and since returning home, also for the lovely cards, gifts and especially the prayers offered in my behalf. God's Grace is sufficient for all our needs. Praise His Name forever. Please continue to hold me up in prayer. God Bless You All.

Sister Margaret Dayhoff

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

LAB'ERS OF CHRIST ARISE

Lab'ers of Christ, arise,
And gird you for the toil;
The dew of promise from the skies
Already cheers the soil.
Go where the sick recline,
Where mourning hearts deplore;
And where the sons of sorrow pine,
Dispense your hallowed lore.
Urge, with a tender zeal,
The erring child along
With peaceful congregations kneel
And pious teachers throng.
Be faith, which looks above,
With pray'r, your constant guest;
And wrap the Savior's changeless love
A mantle round your breast.
So shall you share the wealth
That earth may ne'er despoil,
And the blest gospel's saving health
Repay your arduous toil.

- Lydia Sigourney

A DUTY TO DO

In II Timothy 4, Paul gave his final directions to Timothy. It would not be long until he would yield his life a sacrifice for the God he loved and served. In the end of his last letter, he gave a great and fearful charge to Timothy. It was given in the sight of the Lord, who would judge the quick and the dead.

The charge he gave made Timothy a steward of the gospel. A steward must be faithful in his duties. He must seek the best for his master. He would be trusted with carrying out the master's will, although the master was not present. Paul wanted him able to live and to serve without his physical presence. He trusted Timothy to be responsible for the correct teaching and Spiritual living that were a part of the Christian life.

Jesus had spoken of stewards who had not been faithful. They had become lax during their master's absence by beating the servants, or by being drunken, or by making off-the-cuff deals with the master's creditors. These false stewards were all found out and punished.

There were many duties for Timothy to do. Timothy was to preach the gospel. He must be prepared to speak at all times, not only during stated times of public worship. He had more than a public ministry, he had also a private ministry for those who were in need of his advice and counsel. All, whether ministers or not, have duties involving the Word of God. There are opportunities for all to share the Word, even outside public services. Words can be spoken that will encourage or strengthen another. Other words can be spoken that reclaim one from a dangerous departure from the

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faith. There is no certain season for the Word of God. It is for all times and all situations.

This is especially evident as we live in a time when the Bible is not highly honored by the majority of mankind. People have been fed upon so many fables, mistakes, and nonsense that they are not used to the high standards and requirements of the Bible. Therefore they do not desire to listen, so they refuse the very words of life that they so desperately need.

Timothy was to endure the hardships of an evangelist. It was a hard life to go out into an essentially hostile world to spread the gospel. Traveling was not with the ease that we know today. Most traveling over land was by walking or slow beasts of burden, over water it was by ships dependent upon the winds blowing the right direction with the right force. Jesus' ministry was not one of ease. Paul suffered much to carry the gospel to the many places that he went. Timothy would have to bear the sufferings of this work also. How much are we willing to bear in carrying forth the gospel? There are many modern ways of transmitting information, which have been used to carry the gospel forth, but these means lack the personal touch that is needed to win souls and to strengthen believers. There is a need for a personal carrying forth of the gospel.

Paul had fought his good fight, he finished his course, he had kept the faith, he was now ready to lie down his burden. Would Timothy come to the end of his days, expecting such a wonderful home-going? For the promise was not to Paul only but to all who had that kind of faith.

Paul called Timothy to his side, for all others had deserted him. Demas, especially, had chosen to go back into the world. This left Paul only Luke to support him in this final time of service. Too many today have deserted the place of service they have filled in the past. We should be willing to fill that place until there is no more work that we can do. That place may not be in the public ministry, but it may be just as effectively accomplished in prayer, singing, or teaching.

Paul was concerned that Timothy should bring the books and parchments that had been left behind. These may have been Old Testament writings that Paul wanted to study. Perhaps, they were copies of the letters that he had written, which would be included in the Biblical canon, some time later. He was concerned about the Word of God and wanted it preserved and used for the upbuilding of God's people.

Today we may be very busy with our lives, but that does not excuse us from keeping the charge that we have been given. We may not have been called to the public ministry, but we are called

to do what we can. We all have a part in the sharing of the gospel through word and deed.

You have a charge to keep, just like Timothy. Are you keeping it?

MCC

LIVING IN COMMUNITY

Acts 4:32, "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common."

The situation described in this verse was a temporary one. For when you read of the events described in Acts 11, you read in verses 29 and 30, "Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul." The fact that "every man according to his ability determined to give relief" tells us two things. Number one, they had personal possessions to share and, number two, it was a personal decision, not a community one.

However, we believe that the spirit of community continued to be a part of the first century church. It was also a part of our early Brethren heritage. We believe much has been lost down through the years in the Christian church as a whole and in most groups that call themselves "Brethren."

"And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul." The early Brethren called this common consent. In I Corinthians 1:10 we read, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement." In most groups this has been replaced by majority rule. We do not have the patience to try to come to a common agreement on an issue as our early Brethren forefathers did. Unfortunately, many times it is not always a matter of searching the Scriptures to see what is right but the desires of the majority. We realize that not every church decision has a scriptural answer. We also realize that it is very difficult to always come to a common consent on every issue. Yet we believe that the thinking of the minority should at least be considered and that a spirit of oneness should always prevail.

"Neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own." This was the spirit of the sharing of goods which was practiced by the early Brethren. In James 2:14-16 we read, "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them,

Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?" We fear all too often the thinking in our day is "if the brother would not have been lazy or if he had taken better care of what he had he would not be in need." We do read in II Thessalonians 3:10, "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat." But let us not use this verse to excuse a heart without the spirit of sharing. If a brother lost a cow or some other possession that made a hardship on a family the early Brethren put out a plea that the community of believers would replace the loss. While this is still practiced to some extent, we believe we could see much more of this type of Christian love being displayed.

"But they had all things in common." The early Brethren had a saying, "Living together in word, thought and deed." In I Peter 3:8 we read, "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous." It is more than a little interesting to us that in every scripture quoted, with the exception of our opening verse, we find the word, "brethren." We are not suggesting that only "Brethren" are the elect of God. But we do believe that all of the elect of God should be brethren! This is why we call one another "brother" or "sister." We should never be ashamed of this practice although some individuals dislike it.

We should be able to live together in word. It is a sad commentary on the Christian church that diverse doctrines are preached from the pulpits of the land. It is sadder yet, perhaps, when differing doctrines are preached by those of the same household of faith.

We should be able to live together in thought. This does not mean that everyone will think exactly alike on a given issue, although that would be the ideal situation. But it does mean that we should be able to respect the thoughts of others. This, of course, does not mean compromise on clearly revealed Scripture.

We should be able to live together in deed. Over the years there has been changes made in what we are allowed to do and what we are not allowed to do. It may be difficult to accept some of the changes, but we believe we must to have Christian community and harmony. God does not change but, fortunately or unfortunately, people and situations, do. The Church is made up of people in various situations. We, personally, believe there was strength in the traditions of the Brethren that are fast being lost. But we do not believe these traditions are worth splitting a church over.

We believe God desires His people to live in community. His greatest desire is that we love one another. But He also desires that we follow the teachings of Scripture. We cannot throw away

scriptural truths because they are no longer popular with the church at large. But we must also be aware that community is not salvation. We need the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse us from sin to enter Heaven. The Bible also teaches, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
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MIRACLES OF CHRIST AS RECORDED IN GOD'S WORD

16. Jesus Restored the Withered Hand

Mark 3:1-5

It is almost impossible to envision the mighty acts that Jesus did. There were many deeds, healings, raisings from the dead, curings of the blind and the deaf. The multitudes were fed till they could eat no more. There was more food left over than they started out with. He walked on the water. Causing storms and floods to come and go are just the beginning of God's and Christ's power.

All who have lived since Christ could do nothing that is comparable to what Christ did. Even if all these men pooled their talents and worked together in full unison and accord they could never accomplish what He had done.

God had only one begotten Son and He gave Jesus all power in Heaven and in earth. Matt. 28:18. Think about this and pray to God, thanking Him for giving Jesus such power and ability. If common man possessed such power, the world would be in danger and jeopardy.

Thus, in the above scripture, we find that Jesus entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand. It must have been a pitiful sight. The scripture states, "And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him."

Jesus was well aware that they were watching Him more than they were watching the man with the withered hand. They were watching especially to see if He would heal on the Sabbath day. That would give them a chance to accuse Him.

(Why are there in some churches, more fault-finders than true worshippers). JEALOUSY covers most of the answer to that question.

Jesus paid no attention to the fault finders. He proceeded to heal the man. And He sayeth unto the man with the withered hand, "Stand forth." He then asked His accusers whether it was lawful to do good on the sabbath days or do evil. "To save life or to kill?" But they held their peace.

And when He had looked around about them angered, because of the hardness of their hearts, He saith to the man, "Stretch forth thy hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored like the other, COMPLETELY WHOLE.

By the power He possesses He can restore our souls and make them pure without sin, if we are willing to comply with His requirements.

Brother Paul R. Myers
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UNTO THEE WILL I SING

"I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O Lord, will I sing."
Psalm 101:1.

There is much singing going on today. If you have a radio, you will find jingles and little tunes on every station. Having grown up with a television in our home, I heard many of these things, and I can even remember some of them thirty years later. Popular music of all kinds seem to be on everyone's lips. A good way to remember something, even a telephone number, is to set it to music. There are many scriptures that we have learned by putting a tune to them.

It is wonderful to have musical talent. I have always enjoyed hearing good singing or good musical ability being displayed. But we should not relegate all music to carnal entertainment. In I Corinthians 10:31, it says, "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." When we gather together to worship the Lord, our hearts should be open enough that our singing and our prayers should be to the Lord exclusively. We should not be concerned who we impress with our talents.

In Psalm 101 it says, "... unto thee, O Lord, will I sing." The saved person has a heart overflowing with love and gratitude toward God for His goodness. How wonderful to be lifted out of the mirey clay of sin: to have that burden removed forever! How marvelous to know that this old cursed world is not all we have to look forward to, but that God has prepared a wonderful place where we can enjoy Him forever! We have so much to be thankful for. We have so much to sing about! God gave the best He had (Jesus) so that we might be saved. God does not care if you sing off-key. He does not care if you are good-looking or not, rich or poor, black or white.

Let us sing unto Him. If we would gather together to worship Him, instead of looking at each other, not only would our worship be honored, but I firmly believe there would be less difficulties among brethren.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Conservative Christian and Praising God with Correct Music Theory

Music, when submitted to the power of the Holy Spirit, is a powerful instrument for God. When it is debased and a product of the flesh it is a tool and instrument of Satan for evil.

Satan was created as an instrument of praise and adoration, a veritable "musical instrument." Perhaps this is the explanation for the fact that many people today are enthralled by worldly music or the "fleshly" presentation of music. The resulting effect of misused music is a curse rather than a blessing. It is imperative that we yield to the Holy Spirit in our praise by singing and have a proper motive and attitude.

Psalm 147 teaches us to praise, "... for it is good to SING praises unto our God, for it is pleasant; and praise is comely." This scripture teaches us that one who has personally experienced Christ's redemptive work can have a true harmonious life that produces a true song that is acceptable to the Lord. We should desire to proclaim the importance of the purity of the one behind the music. Praise in music is not talking of musical talent ... but rather a desire to increase his or her spiritual effectiveness and satisfaction and joy in Christian service.

Having given you this introduction, I would like you to learn some important concepts about personally praising with music.

1. Good diction is important. You need to give correctness to the main vowel sound and stress the initial, internal and final consonants.

2. Prolong the main vowel sound as long as possible. At the last possible moment, add the final consonant just before the next initial consonant is about to be sung.

3. Sing each initial consonant quickly. Don't slide up to the vowel.

4. Change from one vowel sound to another easily, keeping as much smoothness, intensity and uniform quality of tone as possible.

5. When there is more than one note for a single vowel sound (as in "My Jesus I Love Thee,") keep the same sound throughout both notes or until the end of the last note when the right final consonant is added. Then, sing, "thee", when the word, "the", appears before a vowel or a silent "h" sound. Sing, "thuh", when it appears before a consonant.

6. Be careful not to get a thin, "twangy" tone in words that have the "r" sound ... as "father" or "world" and so forth. Rather, prolong the vowel sound. We have "learned" to do this incorrectly from the sounds of country music, which should not be in our music library.

7. When you have a diphthong (a union of two vowels forming one compound sound, treat the weaker part of the diphthong as a consonant by getting over it quickly. Example: pray - a-ee ... (long e).

8. When consonants such as d, t, p, k, b, and g come at the end of a word which is the last word of a phrase, articulate with exaggerated emphasis.

9. When consonants appear in the middle of a word, they should be allotted to the succeeding vowel sound in order to achieve greater smoothness. For example: "taken", is not sung as "tak-en" but rather as "ta-ken".

10. Be careful not to emphasize s, sh and ch or c consonants as these make for exaggerated hissing sounds. When holding a tone that ends with one of these sounds, guard against anticipating in the slightest these sibilants.

Breath control is important. Breathing should be steady and unwavering as all tone is dependent upon proper breathing habits. I emphasize this to my Christian school students. In addition, a buoyant posture while sitting is a prime prerequisite for good breathing. The capacity for greater breath control will increase as you gain more practice. The entire breathing process is much like the playing of an accordion. As the body is filled with new air, there must be an expansiveness in the body to make room for that air. As the air is used, there will be contraction in the bodily area.

You need to keep the chest raised as much as possible but allow the throat area to be relaxed. Always take more breath than is needed. Take each breath from the pit of the stomach... the area of the diaphragm. Replenish the breath before it is completely exhausted so that pushing, straining and grasping are avoided.

You will be able to sing extended phrases if you anticipate long phrases by taking a good, deep breath before beginning the phrase, by pacing yourself to conserve air and by maintaining a relaxed throat and jaw position. The vocal cords should be maintained in a relaxed position to keep from straining the voice.

We need to sing songs according to the over-all character and mood of the particular music... whether it is adoration, praise, joy, comfort, assurance and so forth. NEVER become sluggish and wordy. Don't let repetition result in monotony. Keep your mind and voice alert throughout the entire song so that it expressed the meaning to the fullest.

Remember... loud singing does not necessarily mean fast singing... nor does soft singing necessarily mean slow singing. Keep the tempo up. And watch the leader. At the same time, reflect on the meaning and mood of the song and remember that you are not

performing... you are singing to God. As we improve our congregational singing... we can improve our praise.

Brother Len Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

September 15, 1933

FOOLISH TALK

Grant Mahan

In his letter to the Ephesians Paul condemned several habits that people have; and among them was that of foolish talking and jesting. There are so many things condemned in the New Testament which professing Christian people engage in very freely, and among them all it is to be doubted whether there is one more common than this one which we wish to consider.

It might be well if we would acquire the habit of asking ourselves why we do the things that we do. If we were to do that, it is probable that we should leave undone many of these things. This foolish talking and jesting, I believe, is one of them. I do not know of anyone who does not at times engage in it. But why? Sometimes it seems to be done in order to cheer others up, make them look on the bright side instead of the dark side.

The desire, in itself, is not bad, rather it is a desire which all of us should have. But I believe there are better ways to cheer people up than by talking foolishly or jesting to them.

This, of course has reference principally to those who have taken upon themselves the cross and all that it means. And especially ought we to remember that such talk is "not convenient" in the church. Yet, before entering the house of worship, people stand around and gossip; there is laughing and jesting until the singing begins and they know it is time for services to begin. Does this manner of doing prepare one for worship? After engaging in such idle talk are we really prepared to enter the house of God and worship Him?

And then after the services so many of the congregation begin the same round of foolish talk. The sermon is, apparently, forgotten. Is it any wonder that there is so much complaint about the sermons when there is so little preparation on the part of the congregation for worship? We cannot get the good out of the service unless we have prepared ourselves for it. No good thing that we are to receive of the Lord comes to us without our doing our part; and it is no more true of anything than of the sermon. We need to think on these things, and then change our ways when we go to church. We need to prepare our hearts and minds for the message and the blessing

we are supposed to get, and surely will get every time we go up to the house of the Lord to worship, if we have sought Him, prayed to Him to prepare us for the service before going there.

But this is not enough. One must continue to hold the blessing after having received it in the service; and it cannot be held, kept, when foolish talking and jesting are engaged in as soon as the services are over. How often have we heard such talk and laughter immediately after service is dismissed. The inspiring words are forgotten, which could not have been the case if they had been received as they should have been. There is room for a wonderful amount of improvement in the way we act before, in and after our church services. Sometimes there are those who are not ready to stop talking of the things of their pleasure even when the minister is ready to begin the services.

If we would not prepare for services before we go to them, not delaying the preparation until we are entering the church, there is no doubt but that we should receive greater blessing while there, and which would abide with us when we depart from the house of the Lord.

We cannot really worship if we attend to these things only a short time during the service; the Spirit does not move in and out in that way; He abides in or out; in if we are spiritually minded, but out if we are not spiritually minded.

It must not be forgotten that for the child of God "foolish talking" is "not convenient" at any time. Just before these words Paul wrote of certain things that were not to be mentioned among Christians, and I am sure we do no violence to the text when we say that foolish talking is one of the things that should not be heard among God's people. It will do all of us good to "think on these things." The prohibitions given us were not given us that we might be less joyful, but that our joy might be full.

There is something seriously wrong with us if we cannot enjoy ourselves without "foolish talking and jesting." Our life is to be a happy one, and it will be such if we are "filled with the Spirit." And besides the effect a change in our manner of conversation would have upon us, it would benefit more than ourselves.

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

Talking Religion

J. H. Moore

I happened to know a man who became an enthusiastic supporter of the lodge in which he had taken membership. In his home he talked much about his lodge, telling how this family had been helped, how attention was given to a sick man, how the doctor bill

was paid for another, and in what way he considered his lodge superior to any church known to him. And thus he continued talking lodge, always telling the good side, of course, until the wife finally concluded that she would become a member of some secret order admitting women.

She became delighted and at the table joined her husband in talks about the good the lodges were doing. With them it was all lodge and no church, and in this atmosphere the children of the family grew to manhood and womanhood, and it takes no prophet to tell how it happened that they all turned out to be zealous lodge people. It was all because the father began talking lodge in his family and kept it up. The father and mother did not have to persuade their children to accept the lodge ideas, they grew up in that atmosphere and accepted lodge principles of their own accord.

There is nothing strange about this. It is simply natural. Parents who continually talk Catholicism in the family, from the time their children are babes, until they are old enough to think for themselves, are certain to send out from their homes a little band of earnest Catholics. The same principle will hold good with any denomination. It will hold good with the principles held by the Brethren. If we want our children to grow to manhood and womanhood, filled with love and respect for the Brethren, we must talk about the teachings of the church, the sermons preached, the good book printed, the interesting matter in our papers, the goodly men and the sainted women. We must talk about the good that is being done, become interested in the work of the church, and all her undertakings. We must have something good to say about her earnest preachers and the sermons they preach, being sure, at all times, to throw the mantle of charity over the defects as they come to our notice.

This way of talking will, of course lead to the Bible, and to the principles it teaches, and thus the doctrine of the church will become instilled in the hearts of the children. We need not make any special effort to get the principles and love of the Brethren church into the hearts of the boys and girls, but simply permit them to grow up in this kind of a religious atmosphere and they will readily take to the Brethren church in preference to all others.

This kind of talking and environment may not make any politicians, but it will make Christians by the hundreds. It may be with your boys like it was with Bro. Wilbur Stover, of India, when he was a boy in school. Politics ran high in the school and the other boys tried to find out whether Wilbur, as they called him, was a Democrat or a Republican. He was told that he must take his stand and let the boys know to what party he held. In his bewilderment he said that he was neither a Republican nor a Democrat, he was a "Dunker." He went home and repeated the incident to his mother, and she told him that his answer was all right.

The circumstances shows the kind of an atmosphere in which the boy had been raised. His parents had talked the right kind of religion, and the boy early imbibed correct ideas, and they are now a part of the mental and moral make-up of the man. These incidents should prove helpful to parents and others who wish to help those around them religiously or otherwise. There is nothing like living out what we believe, and then talking it as opportunity and prudence may present occasion. Some people may not be able to talk fluently about what they believe to be right, but if they will commence early enough, and put in a whole lifetime at it, they are sure to see its effect in their own families as well as among their neighbors.

OBITUARY

ELMA JAMISON

Sis. Elma L. Jamison, of Quinter, Kansas, was born April 22, 1909 in Fulton County, Ohio, the daughter of Aaron and Serena (Stutzman) Beck. She died in Hays, Kansas on July 22, 1993 at the age of 84 years, 3 months.

Elma gave her heart to the Lord early in life and was a faithful servant of Him until her death. She was a charter member of the West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church, later transferring her membership to the Quinter Congregation.

On June 18, 1930 Elma was united in marriage with Newton Jamison at the home of L. I. Moss near Pettisville, Ohio. To this union were born five children; Tom, Marlan, Richard, Ronald and Dyann.

Elma was a homemaker; her children all agree, "She was always there." In her own words, "I have always loved to keep house, cook and bake." Her home was filled with the fragrance of baking and of cleanliness. She also had a great love for gardening and for flowers; family and friends shared in the bounty from her garden. Elma was known for her hospitality; friends from coast to coast knew they were always welcome. The family found five filled guest books as testimony of her hospitality.

Elma had a great love for learning and for reading. She was a Bible student and had memorized many passages of scripture. As one granddaughter said, "She was our personal Bible dictionary, concordance and commentary." She always took an active part in Sunday School and Bible Study, helping to make the studies interesting.

A private service was held at the Quinter Cemetery with Bro. Gordon Jamison in charge. A memorial service was held at the Quinter church with Bro. David Skiles and Bro. Gordon Jamison officiating. Surviving are her husband, Newton; her children, Tom

and Dorthy of Hoxie, Kansas, Marlan and Shirley of Quinter, Richard and Ronald of Lindrith, New Mexico and Dyann and Clair Armstrong of Wauseon, Ohio; a brother, Harold Beck of Archbold, Ohio; three sisters, Ethel Whitmer of Quinter, Kansas, Leola and Gladys Beck, both of Wauseon, Ohio; eleven grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Orpha Beck.

A memorial has been established in her name for the Torreon Navajo Indian Mission.

She will be missed by all who knew her.

Newton and his family wish to thank each and everyone of you who have offered prayer and sent cards, memorials and other remembrances. They have been a comfort to us. May God bless each one of you.

A TRIBUTE TO ELMA JAMISON

Did you love the Lord,
 Raise your hand;
 Your battle will be won!
 Anything that will conquer you,
 "The BEST is coming your way."
 Your body is racking with pain now;
 Life on earth will cease. So
 Leaning on the everlasting arms;
 Peace you'll find in Him.
 Look up to Jesus cloud,
 For He is God's shining Son;
 He is waiting with open arms,
 "The BEST will come around."

Eugene and Catherine Trujillo
 Andrea Yazzie
 Cuba, NM

NEWS ITEMS

NOTICE

The 1993 edition of the Dunkard Brethren Polity booklet is now revised and printed. Also newly revised and reprinted are the Dunkard Brethren Church Manual and the Instructions for Applicants.

The following tracts have been reprinted. All of these publications are available from the Brethren listed below.

The Brethren Card
 Plain Dressing
 Do You Want Salvation?
 Which Is The Right Church?

What Shall I Do With The Commandments of Jesus?
 The Doctrine Of The Prayer Veil
 Why Trine Baptism?
 The Service of Feet Washing As A Religious Rite

District One: Bro. Frank D. Shaffer
 13092 Grant Shook Road
 Greencastle, PA 17225
 717-597-7282

District Two: Bro. H. Edward Johnson
 1307 S.H. 108
 Wauseon, OH 43567
 419-337-0251

District Three: Bro. Fred O. Pifer
 1734 240th St.
 Adel, IA 50003
 515-993-3187

District Four: Bro. Milton Cook
 1138 E. 12th St.
 Beaumont, CA 92223
 909-845-6231

These publications are for your prayerful reading and use. Order them and share them.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

The Lord willing the Dayton Congregation is looking forward to having a Revival Meeting. It will run October 13 through 17 with Lovefeast on October 16 starting at 4:00 P.M. Bro. Frank E. Shaffer of Waynesboro Congregation, Pennsylvania will be our evangelist.

Come and worship with us.

Sister Mary Rounds, Cor.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

All are cordially invited to come and worship with us during our revivals from October 1-10, with Bro. Mark Cordrey of Pleasant Home, CA as our evangelist. Harvest Meeting will be on October 10. Remember these meetings in prayer that God's will might be done.

Sis. Dianne Heisey, Cor.

THANK YOU ALL

To those who have so lovingly shared the loss of our loved one with loving and comforting thoughts. The Lord is the great Comforter. May He bless you all richly.

Sister Ethel Whitmer

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 1993

October 3 - It Shall Not Be So Among You - Matthew 20:17-34.

1. What position did Christ present as greatest?
2. Are we as parents training our children to be leaders or servants?

October 10 - Blessed Is He That Cometh In The Name Of The Lord -
Matt. 21:1-16.

1. How did the common people accept Jesus?
2. How did the Jewish leaders receive Jesus?

October 17 - The Fig Tree, Teaching in the Temple - Matt. 21:17-46.

1. What lesson can we gain from Christ's dealing with the fig tree?
2. Why did Jesus give these parables to the Jewish leaders?

October 24 - Many Are Called But Few Chosen - Matt. 22:1-46.

1. How do we acquire our wedding garment?
2. Why are there only few that are chosen?

October 31 - Woe Unto You Scribes, Pharisees, Hypocrites! -
Matt. 23:1-39.

1. Why did Christ pronounce woes on these leaders?
2. What are we hiding under our "spiritual veneer?"

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 1993

October 3 - Christian Virtues - II Peter 1:3-11.

1. Is there significance to the order of these qualities?
2. What is the end purpose of these qualities in our life? verse 8.

October 10 - Disciples - Matt. 16:24-28, Luke 14:26-33, John 8:31-32,
John 15:8.

1. What is a disciple?
2. Why does Christ need disciples?

October 17 - Covenants - Gen. 9:16, Jer. 31:31-34, II Sam. 23:3-5,
Isaiah 24:5, Heb. 13:20-21.

1. How does a covenant differ from a contract?
2. How binding and enduring are our covenants with God?

October 24 - Cultivate Gifts - Matt. 25:15-19, Rom. 12:6-12, I Cor.
4:5-9, John 10:28, Rev. 2:10-11.

1. What is a spiritual gift and why is it given?
2. What impresses God most, ability or availability?

October 31 - The Comforter - John 14:26, John 15:25-27,
John 16:1-14.

1. How is this great Comforter obtained?
2. What are the blessings the Comforter brings to our lives?

L. B. Reed
P. O. Box 153
Bethel, PA 19507

(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXI

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NO. 19

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

PASS IT ON

Have you had a kindness shown?

Pass it on.

It was not given to you alone,

Pass it on.

Let it travel through the years;

Let it wipe another's tears;

Till in heaven the deed appears,

Pass it on.

Have you found the heavenly light!

Pass it on.

Souls are groping in the night,

Daylight gone.

Lift your lighted lamp on high,

Be a star in some one's sky,

He may live who else would die.

Pass it on.

TRAINING HIS DISCIPLES

In Mark 1:16-39, recounts the calling and training of Jesus' disciples. This is interesting because we cannot only see how Jesus trained His disciples, but also how we can be trained in following Him. Training is important, but training for its own sake is worthless. Training must produce the desired action.

Jesus was a great teacher. He was able to train His followers, using many different methods to convey His lessons to His students. He used parables, examples, questions and exposition. He was successful for after His ascension His disciples accomplished a great work.

His disciples needed to learn so they would be able to go forth and teach others. The work of the Church has always been a shared work. Those who have known the truth have shared it with others so they could, in turn, share it with yet others. Jesus realized that He would be taken from them. They would need training before He left, so they would be prepared for the work that they were to do. He told them that it was expedient for Him to go away so the Comforter could come. Jesus could minister in only one place at a time, but when the Holy Spirit came to indwell the believers, He could be many places at the same time, working through those who had received the Spirit.

His training was designed to make these fishermen into fishers of men. Their training was to bring the lost to Jesus. This they would do after His ascension, when the angel sent them on their way, breaking their heavenward gaze after a departed Jesus.

The first lesson He taught was commitment. He called them from their boats, the only life they had ever known. They had to leave

THE BIBLE MONITOR

October 1, 1993

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their present occupations and their families, so they could be with Him to be trained. Would we be as willing to walk away from our vocations, our homes and our families as they were? Although we usually aren't called to make these sacrifices, we should have the commitment so we could.

At Capernaum, He led them to the synagogue on the Sabbath day. Jesus was often in the place of worship and fellowship. Even though the Jews had perverted worship and all was not done as commanded, Jesus did not absent Himself from the House of God. The weekly gathering of the Saints is an important event in the lives of believers. Each believer needs this set-aside time for worshipping God and for fellowship with other believers. Paul urged those to whom he wrote to not forsake the assembling of themselves together.

Jesus' teaching was with authority. He did not teach as the scribes. He was not interested in speculative theology. He was interested in conveying the sense of the Word of God, so the hearers could apply the lessons to their daily lives. His was not a ministry dedicated to picky studies of minor details or of speculation concerning future events. He wanted people to realize their need for a Saviour and for a close relationship with God, expressed through a lifestyle befitting a child of God.

They encountered evil spirits dwelling within a man. Jesus was able to cast them out. Even the devils recognize Jesus. They realize, perhaps better than people, how great and powerful Jesus is. Although they were willing to spread forth His name, He refused to receive their witness. Jesus wants to be exalted by His own followers not by Satan's. There will come a time when all will have to acknowledge and exalt Him, but it will be a time too late for the changing of destinies.

Not only Peter's mother-in-law but many other inhabitants of Capernaum were healed by Jesus. Although we cannot heal as He did, He has called us to serve the sick or needy. Christians do have a social obligation towards those unable to care for themselves.

We find Jesus, by example, teaching His disciples to pray. He went out early in the morning to seek a quiet place where He could commune with His Father. When the disciples found Him, they knew from whence His great power came. The Son of God felt the need of prayer. How much more do we poor mortals need it?

Jesus went forth into the little towns throughout the country to spread the gospel. He stayed away from the crowds that would come and make Him a king. His message was to the lowly, who would listen, rather than to those who would be great and would count success in numbers.

These are a few of the lessons that Jesus shared with His disciples. Today we are to be His disciples. Have we been trained so we can be effective witnesses of Him?

MCC

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"We, The People"

The year was 1787; the place, the city of Philadelphia. Men had gathered to amend the Articles of Confederation which were loosely holding the thirteen infant states together. But, even though the purpose was to make amendments, out of that meeting came the Constitution of the United States of America. Little did they know how far-reaching and amazing this document would become.

The Constitution has guided our nation for over 200 years. It has given our citizens the framework for great opportunity and freedom and influence that no nation in recent history has experienced. It has set the standard for democracy across the world. Even as an effective sermon, this document was not so much prepared as it was given birth! These men travailed to bring forth a nation's life. The convention almost broke up several times. There seemed to be irreconcilable differences but they persevered. When it was signed was the work over? No. State legislatures were reluctant to ratify the new Constitution. It might well have fallen... stillborn. At length, however, the Constitution was ratified and even though it was short, its impact on this nation and the world has been unparalleled.

What is in this document? The first three articles define the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the government with its checks and balances of power. Article four deals with state and federal government interrelationships. Five sets forth the method of amending the Constitution and the sixth deals with public debt, supremacy of the Constitution and the oath of office. Finally, the last article relates to the ratification of the Constitution itself. And, although God's name is not mentioned in it except in the dating, we cannot help but believe that His divine presence was guiding these men in their action.

Another document was written almost thirty-three hundred years before the Constitution. It was not written by the hands of men but by the finger of God... not in the "city of brotherly love" but in the desert of Sinai. It was not written on parchment but in tablets of stone... not hammered out in debate but authoritatively given by the Sovereign God of the Universe. This document was of such a magnitude that it was attested to and mediated by angels. (Gal. 3:19)

Moses received the law on Mt. Sinai and carried it down the mountain engraved in stone to give to the nation of Israel. It was the real code by which the world was called to live.

The Constitution that men forged had seven resolutions and the Law of God had ten commandments. The Constitution of men called for executive, legislative and judicial branches but God's Law gave rise to prophets, priests and kings. The prophets would proclaim these truths, the priests would represent men before God and the king would rule over the people as God's vice-regent.

This Document says that "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. (Prov. 14:34) Righteousness is "rightness" and rightness is conformity to God's standard.

Whereas the Constitution has guided America for two hundred plus years, the Ten Commandments have been the backbone of civilized peoples for thirty-five hundred years. When nations seek to honor the principles of the Ten Commandments, there is blessing and enlightenment but when this Law is spurned, there is darkness and cursing.

The greatest Law of all time is "Love the Lord, thy God, with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all they mind."

In the great Constitution of our land there is one great flaw. That flaw is the character of man. Even though it may direct the election of a Chief Executive, it does not insure that he will be a Christian or that he will be a strong leader. A nation that is wrenched by human sin can be thrown into further chaos with the wrong kind of leadership... a leader that defies the Document that was written by the hand of God. The legislative branch of government that is not led by God's Constitution can increase the deterioration of ethics of a nation. A judicial branch providing authority to outlaw prayer and the teaching of creation, that encourages abortion, homosexuality and the religion of humanism in our public schools is not following the ultimate Constitution of God. These are an abomination in the sight of God and will certainly receive a reward of God's righteous wrath.

God's law requires man to love it's Author with all of his being, heart, soul and mind. But the core of man's sinful nature is self-centeredness so he fights this thought that is foreign to his carnal nature. When will we go back to the Original Law... and let it reveal our sin, post our red light, be the Ultimate Schoolmaster? Man's laws are only as good as the people who are called upon to administer and live by them. They offer NO permanent solution or enduring hope.

The cup of iniquity for America certainly must be too full. We are running out of time. Only God's grace can provide for a perfect

solution. Will "we, the people" hear and will we make a positive impact on America's deteriorating moral and spiritual fiber?

Brother Len Wertz

HELPING THE HELPLESS

Mark 6:34a, "And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them,..." He saw multitudes of people unable to do for themselves. It touched Him. He pitied them. He had deep compassion for them. He was touched by their infirmities.

He had the power to heal them, to heal them of any and all manner of disease. In our day we have the same conditions, and perhaps more, due to increased population.

At the same time we have a vast multitude of efficient and proficient physicians, surgeons and specialists who, with their combined knowledge and skills, along with our modern hospitals with their assortment of modern technical equipment, have prolonged our years of living.

The GOOD BOOK informs us that there is a time to be born and a time to die. Death is inescapable unless the Lord comes first.

Decades ago, when such conditions arose in a family, they had no other thought or desire, but to care for that individual in their own home until they expired.

Times have changed. People are living longer, requiring longer term care. Years back, people lived a simpler life than today. They did not require all the luxuries demanded in our day. People had or took time to care for their sick and needy.

A time comes in the life of many that they have no choice but to be admitted to a rest home or other facility offering similar care at a price.

Keep in mind that the average rest home will bill it's residents an average of three thousand dollars per month. That includes room, board and general care. It does not include x-rays, doctor's calls, medication, laundry and so forth. It's a plain fact that countless numbers of people do not have the money to pay for such care. Rarely can they depend on their children to foot the bill. People who qualify for Medicare have help from them, although not all facilities will accept it. When all resources are depleted, Medicaid takes over. But before they do, your assets may not exceed \$1,500.00. Medicaid will take care of the resident as long as they live, or need care without charge.

Certain insurance policies can be bought that will help a bit toward the final care cost, but they are very expensive.

Jesus had compassion on the multitude because they had no shepherd.

Our hospitals and nursing homes are filled with forgotten folks who would appreciate company. Dogs and other pets have been tried to cheer up the forgotten and that plan is proving a success. Many residents never have human company that stays for a visit. Nurses and aids drop in to care for them, but this does not take the place of a visit. To fill the void, some elderly infirm women have dolls and teddy bears as a substitute for company.

Take the time to visit your friends, neighbors, relatives and church members who are isolated in rest homes. When you enter their door not only you, but sunshine, joy and so forth will be a part of your visit.

If you know they are particularly fond of a certain kind of food, prepare such a dish and give it to the friend you are visiting. It will make their day.

Most nursing homes serve nutritional meals, but it is institutional food and to have a meal occasionally like you make at home is next to luxury.

Another observation I have made, many residents receive no personal mail. If you know of such, add them to your correspondence list. It will brighten their day.

Those who are residents of these homes should make every attempt to make friends with everyone on the staff. Compliment them when they do nice things for you. Even, if at times, they are not so accommodating, compliment them anyway. You may never know what problems they had to meet up with, in caring for the resident before you.

Those who have to rely on others to care for them should be thankful to the entire staff and to Almighty God for the provision that has been made to care for the people needing such care.

Ten years ago, a widow lady growing old and feeble, had five married daughters. Her desire was to stay about a month at each daughter's home. None of the five would accept such an arrangement. One day, unbeknownst to the mother, the five daughters packed her clothes and put them in the trunk of their car. They called their mother and told her they were going to take her for a ride. That ride was to a nursing home. Five years passed and none of the daughters ever came to the home to visit mother. **WHAT A SHAME!!!**

Most residents of nursing homes are not there by choice, but by necessity. Help bring them cheerful days by visits, small gifts, food, candy, send them cards and letters, especially over holidays and birthdays. It will make them happy. It will make you feel happy, and

above all, "... Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44718

SIXTY YEARS AGO

October 1, 1933

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

L. A. Shumake

1. How may we express our appreciation to God for what He has done for us?

By giving Him our wholehearted service. (I Cor. 10:31)

2. What rule does our Savior give on this subject?

"Ye cannot serve God and Mammon." (Matt. 6:24)

3. What determines whether we are or are not in the service of God?

The object of our obedience. (Rom. 6:16)

4. Does this reference teach us that if we are obedient to the dictates of the world that we are not in the service of the Lord?

Yes. (James 4:4, I John 2:15-16)

5. What advice is therefore appropriate?

"Yield yourselves unto God... and your flesh with the affections and lusts." (Rom. 6:13)

6. What is true of God's people?

They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. (Gal. 5:24)

7. What two things does Christ want to see in His people?

Peculiarity, zeal. (Titus 2:14)

8. What two things are necessary that these conditions may be brought about?

They must (1) be redeemed from all iniquity, (2) purified. (Titus 2:14)

9. What else?

"Present your bodies, a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." (Rom. 12:1)

10. Is sacrifice the most important feature in the Christian service?

"Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice." (I Sam. 15:22)

11. What does our savior say on this subject?

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Read Matt. 7:21-27)

12. What should be an evidence of devout service?

"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (I Thess. 5:18)

13. What is the value of prayer?

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16)

14. How may we be of service in public worship and work?

By regular attendance (Heb. 10:25); exhortation and singing (Col. 2:16); study (II Tim. 2:15) obedience (Heb. 13:17); prayer (I Thess. 5:17); personal work (Gal. 6:1); financial support (I Cor. 16:2); and improving opportunities (Gal. 6:10)

15. How shall we work in restoring the erring?

In the spirit of meekness. (Gal. 6:1)

16. How shall we meet those who oppose us?

We shall endeavor to instruct them in meekness. (II Tim. 2:25)

17. When we are asked as to our faith, what should be our attitude?

(1) Be ready to give answer to everyone, (2) in meekness. (I Peter 3:15)

18. How should our daily walk and conduct be?

In all lowliness and meekness. (Eph. 4:2)

19. What about boasting?

It is excluded by the law of faith. (Rom. 3:27)

20. What does our Savior say with reference to the meek?

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." (Matt. 5:5)

21. When we have done faithful service for many years, should we not feel somewhat elated, and expect that people know us for what we have done?

"So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all these things, which are commanded you, say, we are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do." (Luke 17:10)

22. What two commandments, if followed, will keep us straight on the question of popularity?

(1) We should not work for the glory of men unless we expect no higher reward (Matt. 6:2-4); (2) We should do all to the glory of God. (I Cor. 10:31)

23. What consolation has the earnest Christian worker?

"Great is your reward in heaven." (Matt. 5:12)

24. Why do we owe God our whole service?

"Ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body." (I Cor. 6:19-20) "Be not ye the servants of men." (I Cor. 7:23)

25. What final words of commendation will more than repay us for all we can do?

"Well done, good and faithful servant." (Matt. 25:23) "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom." (Matt. 25:34)

NO WICKED THING

"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes..." Psalm 101:3.

Since the Second World War there has been a continuous, relentless assault on the people of God by the forces of evil. This is the war that separated more families than any other war in history. It sent men abroad and their wives into factories. No one touched by these events was ever the same again. After the war divorce rates went sky-high. Illegitimate children were born in ever increasing numbers. Science recorded breakthrough after breakthrough. With all this came the development of the television, something that the world perhaps would call the biggest breakthrough of all.

With millions of soldiers returning to their homes and the war effort scaled back to normal there was more free time for nearly everyone. In traditional America socializing was done in church and school. People in communities got to know one another. But gradually, the people of America receded into the deadly cocoon of television viewing. Why not? Everything was done for them. Why go to any special effort to entertain yourself when the entertainment was brought right into the living room?

The church knew the destructive nature of television from the beginning. A look at history will show you that Adolf Hitler, leader of Germany, had used television, experimental in the 1930's, to spread his deadly propaganda. Would the world's message, though not political, be any less deadly? Even if the message was not bad, wouldn't the use of this machine, taking hours away from prayer, from the Word of God, and from more useful pursuits be detrimental to Christian growth?

Can we who love the Lord Jesus as our Savior be the receiver of any other message? Can our eye (that is, our spiritual eye) be single if we allow non-spiritual garbage to invade our homes? David, who was the apple of God's eye, said, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes." This does not just apply to television, but also

the places we go (like the beach) and the things we do. What makes the tube so dangerous, however, is that it takes the world and makes it attractive, and brings it right into our homes!

Some folks feel that it would be alright if we just owned a VCR (Video Cassette Receiver), and just played "Good Christian Tapes." There is difficulty in this type of thinking. First, by what criteria do we establish what is a "good Christian tape?" Secondly, who is it that is producing these tapes and by what standards to do they produce them? Third, do we realize that this is the same type of machine that can display the worst type of filthy pornography? How would we feel if ever a machine under our stewardship was used for immoral purposes? Even our radios must remain under close scrutiny. As to the standards by which tapes are produced, the churches standards must be stricter than those of the world, and why should the church go to the world for any kind of entertainment, let alone edification?

If we read this Psalm in its entirety, we realize that David's chief desire was to please God, not his own flesh. This is the day and age, like in the days of Noah, when they were eating and drinking, and marrying, and giving to marry. The flesh is Lord in today's world. I grew up with television, but when I became a Christian I took a stand against it. When I was a child the things found on it were tame compared to now. But the children of God preached against it then. HOW MUCH THE MORE should we preach against it now? It is truly a wicked thing, because man has made it such. Even the so-called Christian programming today is so full of error and worldliness that it is not even worth thinking about, let alone watching.

Let us stop thinking about how close to the world we can be and still be in the church. Let us think about pleasing God, and serving Him, and not about pleasing ourselves. The blessings will be ours.

Brother L. H. Miller
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SPRINKLING – POURING – AND IMMERSION

Ezekiel 36:25-27, "Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them."

Isaiah 44:3, "For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will put my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring."

Acts 2:16-18, "But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy."

Romans 6:3-5, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ was baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection."

If numbers were the sole criterion for the mode of baptism to be used, "sprinkling" would probably win hands down. If the number of times the word is found in Scripture is the criterion, "pouring" would be the winner. The word "immersion" is not to be found within the pages of the King James Bible. Yet we believe with all our heart that this is the mode that is taught. We believe that both an historical and a Scriptural argument can be made for the use of trine immersion baptism as the correct mode. Yet we, personally, are reluctant to judge an individual's position with the Lord based upon the way they were baptized.

In Ezekiel 36 we see that God "will sprinkle clean water upon you." We find no evidence in Holy Scripture that any man has a part in this type of cleansing. We see this as an act that is as refreshing as a light rain that can be walked in without feeling discomfort. This is the type of cleansing we can experience when we study the Word of God. The Word of God will convict us of the filthiness of the flesh. No longer will we enjoy hearing "dirty jokes" or wish to view pornography. The Word of God will convict us of our idols. No longer will we desire to put our paycheck, new homes, new cars and such like before God.

We will desire to walk in the statutes of God. The New Testament will be our guide and our rule for life. We will be willing to keep God's judgements and do them. We will realize that not everything that is forbidden by God is named on the pages of Holy Scripture. The "spirit" of the written Word of God should convince us of the evil of following the ways and standards of the world.

In Isaiah 44 it is, again, God who is doing the pouring. Once again we can find no Scriptural evidence that man has any part in this. The same is true of the account in Acts 2 which repeats the words of Joel 2. This is clearly a spiritual baptism rather than water

baptism. This gives us the power to "prophesy." Within the pages of the New Testament there seems to be individuals who could foretell the future. However, we believe the major purpose for this gift is to proclaim the truth of salvation. While the Word of God gives us our instructions on salvation, the Holy Spirit gives us the power to share it with others. This is for all believers. While we have seen instances where we felt bad judgement was used in the area of witnessing and we do not feel that all of us are called to preach on the street corners or go house to house knocking on doors, we should all be able to share what God has done in our lives if the opportunity should present itself. This clearly has nothing to do with the ordained ministry which the Scriptures clearly limits to qualified men.

In Acts 2:38 we read, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." And in verse 39 we read, "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." If you do not believe salvation includes repentance, baptism and receiving the Holy Ghost we will let you argue with Scripture, not us! "In the name of Jesus," according to Strong's Greek dictionary, has to do with authority. Jesus authorized us to baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Romans 6 tells us we are buried with Him. Whether put in a cave, in a mausoleum or buried in the ground the body is completely covered from the view of men. Many refuse to baptize "for the remission of sins." But we must follow Holy Scripture, not the whims of man.

If you have never been born again allow the blood of Christ to cleanse you, the Holy Spirit to give you new life as you are scripturally baptized. If you are a follower of Christ allow the Bible to lead your way, the Holy Spirit to guide your path and "walk in newness of life" by the power of your baptismal experience.

Brother James M. Hite
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Palmyra, PA 17078

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

J. H. Moore

Killing The Church

I sat at the table of a highly respected and well-to-do family in one of the Southern States. The conversation drifted to the history and death of a relative of great wealth, and widely known in most of the States. The lady of the house remarked, "yes, and Auntie just

killed Uncle with the rich and unhealthy food with which her table was daily supplied." It was said to hear her thus speak of her uncle's death. But the heart was too full to keep back the truth. The man was worth his millions, and much was said in the leading journals about his achievements and his death, but not a line was printed setting forth the fact as it was stated by the lady at the table.

All over this country there are men and women going to untimely graves just for the want of healthy and nourishing food. Unwise cooks and richly-laden tables are rapidly filling the graves in the city of the dead. This is sad, but there may be something sadder yet.

Once upon a time I was told of an able preacher who was killing the church over which he presided, by constantly preaching to his members concerning the defects of other congregations, and some of the mistakes of a few of his own flock. Instead of giving his people the healthy and nourishing Gospel food that they so greatly needed, and for which they earnestly plead, he fed them on that which only a few of the stronger could endure, and retain their spiritual life. The man was killing his church, and no one seemed to have the courage to tell him of his terrible mistake.

What is said of this instance may, in a measure, apply to a score of others. Preachers often spend too much time parading the defects of the church before their members. They fill their souls with discouraging and unhealthy thoughts, instead of the spiritual food that is so essential to spiritual growth. No church can thrive on such preaching. You might as well look for healthy children in a family where the most unhealthy food is served at all the meals.

It is a sad experience for the sheep of the Master's flock to go to the house of God, Sunday after Sunday, expecting to be fed on the bread that cometh down from heaven, and be put off with the undesirable news picked up here and there, among people noted for their defects in life. People having this experience go away from the religious sanctuary disappointed. It is only the nourishment that comes from above that can help men and women to the higher and better life.

In order to retain spiritual growth in a congregation, the members must be well supplied with the nourishing food that comes from above. Some of them must be fed more or less on the sincere milk of the Word, while others can bear strong meat. But under no circumstances should the precious moments of the Lord's Day service be spent parading either the defects of the church or the evils of the world before those hungering and thirsting after righteousness. Jesus told Peter to feed both the sheep and the lambs, and were more attention given to this consideration we would hear and see far less of weak members going astray. Let every minister see to it, that the flock over which the Holy Ghost has made him overseer, is properly fed and encouraged. He ought to

be as ready to rebuke the man who fills the minds of his members with the faults and defects of others as he is to rebuke the one who would preach another Gospel. If we want strong, healthy members we must feed them upon the Bread of Heaven, as the Lord intended.

NEWS ITEMS

QUINTER, KANSAS

The Lord willing, the Quinter Congregation plans a week of Revival and Lovefeast, October 17 through October 24. Bro. Jason Reed will be our evangelist. A hearty welcome to all as we enjoy this time of growth and renewal.

Sister Rhonda Snyder

GOSHEN, INDIANA

The Lord willing, the Goshen Congregation will hold a one week Revival, October 24 through 31. Bro. Tom St. John will be with us to bring us the Word of God. Harvest meeting will be on the 24th; with Lovefeast on the 30th.

Pray that God's Word will be upheld and that souls would be saved. Come and worship with us.

Sister Becky Stalter, Cor.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Church is planning a week Revival, October 31 through November 7 with Bro. Jason Reed as Evangelist. Our Lovefeast will be November 6 at 2 P.M. and 7 P.M. Services other nights will begin at 7:30

We welcome all to these meetings!

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

During the past several months there has been some confusion regarding services conducted at our two meeting houses. Our meeting schedule is as follows:

Mechanicsburg Meetinghouse corner of Washington and Keller Streets, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, Cumberland County. Services every Lord's Day Morning, 9:30 A.M. Prayer meeting every Wednesday evening at 7:30 P.M. in members' homes.

Brightbill Meetinghouse beside Horning's Furniture Store, two miles east of Campbelltown on Route 322, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. First and Third Sunday 9:30 A.M. Second Sunday Evening 7:00 P.M.

Brother Lynn H. Miller,
Deacon, Mechanicsburg Cong.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

BREATHE ON ME

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love,
And do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with thee I will one will,
To do or to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly thine;
Till all this earthly part of me
Glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with thee the perfect life
Of thine eternity.

- Edwin Hatch

RESPECT

A common complaint today concerns the lack of respect in all areas of society. It is evident in education, in business, in law enforcement, in government and even in the Church.

Part of the problem is ignorance. Many are ignorant of proper manners and politeness. Another part of the problem is selfishness and self-centeredness. People are too wrapped up in their own desires and activities. On the other hand, that respect may not have been deserved. Governmental officials become arrogant, promote ill-designed programs, and even lie, which often promote disrespect. Schools that do not teach even the basics become unrespected. Businesses that cut corners to increase their profits, treat customers arrogantly and provide little service lose the public's respect. Churches, which have become worldly, have lost the respect of the general public. The Church, trying to be what she is not supposed to be, loses the respect that she should have. Respect must be earned not just expected. This is important for the Church to consider if she desires respect.

The Church understands that not all will become a part of the Church. It would be a wonderful world to live in if all were part of the Church, but such is not the case. We can hardly expect to have all drawn in, when only a few dared to identify with Jesus when He ministered on Earth. If men did not flock to follow Him, how would we expect them to flock to the Church? Though all will not join nor support her, the Church should desire to have the respect, if not the affection, of the people around her.

This respect cannot be bought with compromise and soft words. Respect, and oftentimes hatred at the same time, may be purchased

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by a strict observance of the Will of God. Too often the world better knows the Bible than the Church does. At least the world can spot deviations from that standard. The world loses respect when she sees the Church attempt to curry public favor by lowering her standards.

The Church may not fairly cry, "foul", when the world is disrespectful, if she has tried in vain to allure the world by allowing her standards to be lowered and she has invited the world to be a part of her, without a soul-changing experience through Jesus Christ. When the requirements are low, the respect gained will be low.

Not only must the Church be interested in the respect she gains or loses in the world, she must have respect within herself. The members of the Church must not expect respect from an unbelieving world, if there is a lack of respect within. If the Church is not respected by her own members, she certainly will not have the respect of those outside.

The Christian must respect God, he must respect other people, and he must respect himself. The highest debt of respect owed by the Christian is reverence to God. He alone is worthy of reverence. No man, no matter what title he might bear, is ever worthy of the term, "reverend".

Respecting God is respect for His Word, His House and His People. Respect keeps people from using the Bible in inappropriate ways. It is not a doorstop, a booster seat, or an ordinary book. The meetinghouse should be respected as a place of worship. God's people are to be treated as fellow travelers on the road to Heaven. The leaders of the Church are to be looked up to and followed as they follow Christ.

Christians must respect other people. All have been created with a purpose by God. Each person, no matter how depraved or sinful, still retains the faint image of God, who made him, so he should be treated as a human being. As much as we might disagree with another person, we should never desire the destruction of that person. That person may choose eternal separation from God, but the Christian should never wish it for him.

Each Christian should have a self-respect born not from pride or self-aggrandizement, but from the realization of the price that God has paid for his soul. God had such a love for all men, that He was willing to give His only begotten Son as the sacrifice for the sins of lost humanity. That price makes each one valuable, so each should have enough respect for self that he would live to please the One who paid such a high price for him. Having self-respect, a person will certainly not engage in activities that are immoral or harmful to the body or soul.

Do you receive the respect that you think you deserve? Do you show the respect to God and to others that they deserve? Make sure your life shows the respect that you would want to receive.

MCC

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"WATER"

The children of Israel faced the problem of too much water at one point in their exodus from Egypt. It loomed before them as a barrier to freedom at the Red Sea. Later, however, in the wilderness of Shur, they had no water for three days. To their dismay, when they arrived at Marah, they found the water bitter and undrinkable. So, what happened? The people complained and murmured against Moses... that he had brought them to a forsaken place. What did Moses do? He poured out his heart to the Lord. Both he and the children of Israel were to learn some very practical lessons about depending on the Lord.

God answered Moses' cry. He showed him a tree which, when cast into the waters, made them sweet. The Lord had made provision for His children. The water was there, but God had to make it safe to drink. He was the ONLY One who could safely deliver them from the Egyptian army and provide the water so necessary for life. They were led to Elim where there were twelve wells of water... an oasis of rest. Moses was only a tool in the hands of the Lord, used to provide for the needs of the people.

Our land has been blessed by God in so many ways. Most of us have adequate housing and clothing and food grows plentifully. We also have an adequate supply of good, clean water. Our resources have seem almost boundless. We have been a blessed nation.

In contrast to this, the children of Israel were in the desert... perhaps two million people with no fresh drinking water each day. As God led them from the Wilderness of Sin deeper into the Sinai, and further away from the Promised Land, they came to Rephidim and camped there. An old problem developed in a new place. Nothing can bring more hardship to a multitude of people with dry tongues, parched lips and thirsty souls. Their hearts were about as dry as the desert. They had quickly forgotten that God had previously provided water and safely distanced them from their enemy and given them their daily provisions. So... we are often like Israel... ungrateful and quick to forget all the Lord has given us.

The Lord led Moses and the children of Israel to Rephidim to show them that no situation, even the lack of water, could be so desperate that He could not be "a very present help in time of

trouble." Someone always has to shoulder the blame and again it was Moses. After having no water to drink for three days, the people disputed intensely with him. They murmured against him and accused him of bringing them there to die... along with their animals.

Again, what happened? God answered Moses' cry to Him for help and he was instructed to take his rod and go to the rock in Horeb. The Lord would stand before him there. He was instructed to strike the rock with the rod and water would come out. It did... and there was plenty for everyone. God proved Himself once again. This place was named "Massah," meaning "challenge" and "Meribah" which means dispute... because of the striving of the children of Israel and because they tested the Lord there.

So... where are we going with this discourse? There are many parallels between the Israelites' wilderness wandering and our own lives. The Lord could save us and immediately take us home to be with Him. But, He chooses to leave us on the earth to be witnesses to the unsaved. Not only that, but we can experience first hand His provision and protection. The water of life freely flows out to us and we need to learn to trust Him for it. Let us walk victoriously. Let us trust the One who provides our water to keep us physically alive as well as spiritual water that will allow us to thirst no more. Even as we have an obligation to conserve our beautiful natural resource, water, to save it for future generations if the Lord allows time to continue on... so we must take special care to conserve the spiritual life giving water or the Word and a Godly heritage for future generations.

Brother Len Wertz

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Genesis 1:3, "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light."

Psalms 138:1, "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Revelation 22:5, "And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever."

The light spoken of in Genesis 1:3 was a supernatural light. It was not the sun and the moon for they were created on the fourth day. Why God chose to use a supernatural light before creating the sun and the moon cannot be fully explained. Any explanation given is mere speculation since the Bible does not say why. It

does prove, however, that God is not limited to earthly created objects but that all creation is in the control of God.

This also proves that God is not limited to doing some things in one particular way. For instance, there are times when God sees fit to heal in a supernatural way. There are other times when God sees fit not to heal our loved ones or our own personal suffering.

When God said, "Let there be light," we find, "there was light." As in all of creation this happened instantaneously. God did not need nor use millions of years to create the earth as the evolutionists and theistic evolutionists would have us believe. The only difference between the two is the theistic evolutionists accept the reality of some type of creator while the humanistic evolutionists deny there was not a Creator.

We need to go beyond the idea that some impersonal force was responsible for creating the world. We must accept the truth spoken in Psalm 27:1 "The LORD is my light and my salvation." We read in John 1:9 "That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." The "that" refers to verse one, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." As you continue to study this chapter you will find that "the Word" and the "Light" refers to Jesus Christ. We find in Colossians 1:16 (speaking of Jesus Christ) "For by him were all things created that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him."

The Lord Jesus Christ is our Light and, Praise God, He is also our salvation! He is our Light and our salvation in at least two ways. He is our salvation because He shed His precious blood on Calvary's cross to redeem us from sin. As the song writer says:

"What can wash away my sins?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus."

He is our Light to guide us to the glory of Heaven. He is the living Word and He has given us the written Word, the Holy Bible, which we believe was given to English speaking people through the King James Version. Here God has also said, Let there be light and there was light. We read in John 3:19 "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." Why is the King James version ridiculed in many modernistic churches? We believe it is because men love darkness rather than light. Why is it taught that the Bible contains the Word of God in place of the truth that the Bible is the Word of God? Because men love darkness rather than light. Why is homosexuality and many other sins now acceptable in many gatherings? Because men love darkness rather than light.

Why has the modern church changed God's teachings on immodest dress, the prayer veil and worldly amusements? Because they love darkness rather than light. Why has the plain church discarded many of its practices that were a sign that they are separate from the world? Is it because we have come to love darkness rather than light?

If the Lord is my Light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? We do not need guns in our homes to protect us. We do not need to go to war to save the nation. We do not need to sue at law to regain a loss. We need not fear those who ridicule us for taking a stand for the true Faith. We realize that the Psalmist did not know of non-resistance and spoke often of God being a God of war. Just as we cannot fully explain why God chose to use a light before the sun and the moon we cannot fully explain why God commanded war in the Old Testament and forbids any type of violence for the Christian. But God's Word says it and we believe it!

We look forward to that time when, once again, there will be no need for the sun or the moon. Will this be the same supernatural light that God used in Genesis 1:3? We cannot say with full assurance but we believe it may very well be. If we do not have the true Light in our lives now we have no hope for this eternal bliss. We will also be judged by the light of God's Word. Contrary to popular teaching, a one time salvation experience does not guarantee us a home in Heaven. We must walk in the light as He is in the light and then the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ will cleanse us from all sin.

Brother James M. Hite
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SIXTY YEARS AGO

October 15, 1933

A THIEF

A. G. Fahnestock

One of the disagreeable things that come to pass, is when we are robbed of our valuables. Things of great value men and women put under lock and take every precaution to prevent the thief from taking them away from them. As I lay awake last night it dawned upon me, that it would be well to call our attention to the fact, that there is a thief who should be arrested at once lest he will rob the church of peace and unity which would take the very power. May we all be on the alert and if need be watch day and night lest he may rob us of our stronghold.

The thief I refer to is the thief of inconsistency.

I feel sure that many of us could recall the havoc this thief has done in years past in other organizations.

Surely inconsistency has robbed many an organization of love, unity, peace and power. Jesus recognized this condition when he discovered that there was a class of people who were busily engaged in trying to pull motes out of the eyes of others and did not first remove the beam that was in their own eyes. (Matt. 7:5) And again in Matthew 23, Jesus points out a people that made a loud profession and stood high in the religious world, and who found much to do, but what they did do was to work on the outward to the making of a display and neglect the cleansing of the inside. Therefore Jesus rebuked them and spake in unquestionable terms when he said, "Woe unto you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, cleanse that first which is within that, that which is without may be clean also." Does it seem reasonable that these Scribes and Pharisees should have the upper seats, when they are like whited sepulchers, which, indeed appear beautiful outwardly but are within full of dead men's bones? Is it consistent that the blind should lead the blind, or that they should compass land and sea to make a proselyte and when he is made, make him twofold more the child of hell than they themselves?

Is it consistent for any one to say, I am a Christian, when they have not the spirit of Christ? Inconsistency is very often hypocrisy and both of these have often robbed others from confidence and joy, that should be theirs.

You may have had the experience in past years, when you have had all confidence in someone, but in course of time inconsistency has visited you through this individual and has robbed you of all the confidence and love you had in and for that person.

It is inconsistent for anyone to say, I love the church, when he will not abide by her adopted rules and regulations, but will simply continue to do according to his own personal views and wishes.

May God help each of us, that we may recognize the value robbed from other organizations through the thief of inconsistency and may we prove our love to God, the church and the people by living consistent lives, which bars inconsistency and unifies us in accepting the rules and regulations, which in harmony with the gospel, the church has adopted. Jesus said, "It were better that a millstone were hanged about his neck and he be cast in the depth of the sea, than to offend one of these little ones." (Disturb and rob him of his peace.)

My dear reader beware of the man or woman that has for his or her associate the thief of inconsistency.

GLOBAL WARMING

Eddie Wagner

A time is coming,
So Scientists say,
The globe will grow warmer
Than it is today.

The oceans will rise
And the mountains will fall;
The temperature change
Will bring change to us all.

Our great San Joaquin Valley
Will be San Joaquin Bay;
San Francisco will simply
Be washed away.

"It's the greenhouse effect,"
The scientists state,
"That's warming our world
And sealing our fate."

But they do not know,
In a Book, on a page,
Global warming's predicted
At the end of the age.

The trumpet will sound
And Christ will descend,
And real global warming
Will start to set in.

The terror will strike
Those who do not believe,
Who in their complacency
Did not receive

The salvation of God
Through Jesus our Lord,
And who in their pride
His Gospel ignored.

But the righteous will rise
To shine forth as the sun;
God's church completed;
His work on earth done.

And when the earth burns
And melts with great heat,
God's global warming
Will then be complete.

- Selected by Brother Rudy Cover

GOD IS LOVE

I John 4:8

When John says, "God is Love," he means not only that love is God's attribute, but also God's character. Indeed we cannot apply the word character to God in the same way as we do men. With mankind, character is the result of habit, brought about through repeated action. But God's character is love, and everything coming from God is a result of His character. His wisdom is love devised. His power is love executed. His truth is love fulfilled. His holiness is love because he forbids whatever could injure us. His anger, chastising us for our faults, and causing us to repent, is the expression of His love to us. It is our warning, designed to prevent the evil it denounces.

Let us continue to illustrate this doctrine: "God is Love." We have come to understand that God has written two great books on the subject. It would take years to read them through properly. All we can do is quote a verse or two from each of them. The first book that God wrote is CREATION. Creation is immense: immeasurable. But let us look at our own world: its seas and land masses, its seasons of day and night, summer and winter, succeeding each other in regular order so that all would segue smoothly one into another that man could have the enjoyment of it all. God intended not only to provide our wants, but also our gratification and delight. Eating and drinking are essential to our support, and God may have made them drab or even nauseating. But He made food and drink pleasant that man would be blessed thereby. The same is true of many other things, such as the fragrance of the rose or the lily. The apple tree yields a wonderful fruit important to man, and God could have made it to bear fruit without blossoming, but He intended to charm us first before feeding us. All of God's creation has been designed for man so that His love for us might be properly displayed.

Let us have a look at God's other book, the volume of REVELATION, which is even greater than the first. God has "magnified His word above all His name." As Isaac Watts has well penned:

God, in the person of His Son,
Hath all His mightiest works outdone.

The law was a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. Since Moses' time God's revelation to man has been set down in stone. By doing so God says, "Listen to Me, Come unto Me, worship Me." The law showed us that we could not be forced to worship God. Jesus Christ, the crowning gift of God's Love, came that, through His ultimate sacrifice, we would be drawn to God. God's Word is truth.

Jesus said, "I am the truth." God's revelation, of which Christ is the crux, is God's perfect love. In our scripture verse, the author did not stop there. He continued in verse 10: Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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THE POWER OF PRAYER

JOSHUA prayed, the sun stood still;
His enemies fell in vale and hill.
Joshua 10:12-10.

HANNAH prayed, God gave her a son;
A Nation back to the Lord she won.
I Samuel 1 and 7.

SOLOMON prayed for wisdom, then
God made him the wisest of mortal men.
I Kings 3:12, 10:24.

ELIJAH prayed with great desire,
God gave him rain and sent the fire.
I Kings 18:37-45.

JONAH prayed, God heard his wail,
He quickly delivered him from the whale.
Jonah 2:1-10.

THREE HEBREWS prayed, through flames they trod;
They had as a comrade, "The Son of God."
Daniel 3:21-25.

ELISHA prayed with strong emotion
He got the mantle and a double portion.
II Kings 2:9-14.

DANIEL prayed. The lions claws
was held, Who locked their jaws.
Daniel 6:22.

PETER prayed and Dorcas arose
To life again, from death's repose.
Acts 9:39-41.

THE THIEF, he prayed – for mercy cried,
He went with Christ to Paradise.
Luke 23:42-43.

THE CHURCH, she prayed, then got a shock,
When Peter answered her prayer with a knock.
Acts 12:5-16.

ABRAHAM stopped praying, cities fell,
With all their sin straight into Hell.
Genesis 19:24, Jude 7.

THE DISCIPLES prayed, the Spirit came,
With cloven tongues and Revival flame.
Acts 2:41.

When CHRISTIANS pray in one accord,
It draws sinners to the Lord.
Acts 2:41, Joel 2:17, II Chronicles 7:14.

FROM REVIVAL fire Converts shall be
And all God's glory they shall see.
Zechariah 10:1, Joel 1:18-32.

Author unknown

Submitted by Brother Paul R. Myers

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

Some Observations at Church

J. H. Moore

While seated in the pulpit, one Sunday morning, I observed a care-worn woman entering, carrying one child and leading another. Three children followed. She gathered them around her as a hen would her little chicks. Presently the husband entered, a strong man, looking as though he enjoyed life as well as the table. He picked out a good comfortable seat at one end of the bench, and fixed himself to take things easy. So far as I could discover he had no concern about the mother and her five children. He came to meeting to enjoy it, and meant to get all the good possible out of the service.

I looked at the woman. She seemed tired and yet she did her best to appear cheerful. Hers were good children, accustomed to attending services, and yet they required her constant attention. She was a hard-working woman in her home, for the family was poor. Instead of having to care for the entire little flock she should

have been relieved in some manner. I wondered why that strong husband of hers could not have taken at least two of the children to the seat with him. That would have been a relief to the overworked mother. Then it would have looked manly for him to have assumed at least a part of the family burden. It would have given the mother a better opportunity to enjoy the service and get some of the rest she needed. I certainly pitied the woman, and felt very much like preaching a sermon on the text, "Husbands, love your wives."

Presently a man entered, carrying a child, which he took care of during the meeting. His wife looked real cheerful and happy. She occupied another seat with some of the larger children. To me that looked sensible, and I felt like commending the man for his fatherly and sensible conduct. His good wife got the full benefit of the service and went away from that meeting a stronger woman, spiritually. To her the service was restful as well as instructive.

Another woman entered, accompanied by a few well-fed children. In appearance she was all sunshine, and enjoyed this world for all there was in it. Generally speaking, she was a good mother, a most obliging neighbor and passed as a dutiful church member. She was always ready for any work around the meetinghouse and especially at love feast times, but in some way did not seem to enter fully into the spirit of a service.

As soon as she was seated, she passed out a cookie to each of her children, and offered some to other children. Her idea of raising children was to dress them comfortably and feed them well. It never occurred to her most obliging soul that it is ill manners to eat in church, and that she was simply teaching her little folks bad manners, to say nothing of the tendency of her conduct to make other children in the house discontented and fretful.

All of this occurred in an out-of-the-way place. Properly speaking, the last mother named should have, from the start, trained her children not to eat in church. It is bad church ethics. In the former case the husband might have occupied a seat with his wife and children, but this meeting was in a locality where the men occupied one side of the house and the women the other.

OBITUARIES

MARIE FOSTER

Sister Esther Marie Foster, the daughter of George and Martha (Brubaker) Hill, was born near Beatrice, Nebraska, September 28, 1904. She died at Quinter, Kansas, April 27, 1993 at the age of 88 years, 6 months and 29 days.

She grew up and attended school at Quinter. She was a charter member of the Quinter Congregation. In 1938 she moved to Great

Bend, Kansas where she was a homemaker and was employed as a cook at Great Bend Junior High School from 1958 to 1970. She returned to Quinter in 1974, where she spent the remainder of her days.

She was married August 6, 1941 to Thomas E. Foster, who died in August, 1972.

She is survived by a son, Tom Foster and wife Sarah, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; a daughter, Judy Foster, Quinter, Kansas; two grandchildren, Emily and Carrie Foster. She was preceded in death by a brother, Ernest Hill and two sisters, Ruth Hill and Naomi Ruyle.

Funeral services were conducted, April 30, 1993, at the Quinter Dunkard Brethren Church by Brethren Len Wertz and Dale Jamison. Burial was in Great Bend Cemetery, where Bro. Herman Jamison officiated.

I'M FREE

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
 I'm following the path God laid for me
 I took His hand when I heard Him call
 I turned my back and left it all
 I could not stay another day,
 To laugh, to love, to work or play.
 Tasks left undone must stay that way
 I found peace at the close of day.
 If my parting has left a void,
 Then fill it with remembering joy.
 A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
 Ah yes, these things too I will miss.
 Be not burdened with time of sorrow,
 I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
 My life's been full, I savored much.
 Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
 Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
 Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
 Lift up your heart and share with me
 God wanted me now, He set me free.

KATHRYN HOLLANDSWORTH

Sister Kathryn S. Hollandsworth was born March 3, 1913 to Charles M. and Annie (Miller) Myers. The place of her birth was Dover, Pennsylvania. She passed from this life on May 18, 1993 in the Holy Spirit Hospital at the age of 80 years, 2 months and 15 days.

Sister Kathryn was a lifelong member of the Mechanicsburg Dunkard Brethren Church.

On July 15, 1933 she was married to Dover Hollandsworth who preceded her in death on February 28, 1982. To this union were born two sons, Kenneth P. Hollandsworth of Princeton, New Jersey and Dale C. Hollandsworth of Dillsburg, Pennsylvania; a daughter, Virginia D. Godfrey of York, Pennsylvania. Also surviving are five grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; a brother, Lewis Myers of Bowmansdale, Pennsylvania and a sister, Helen Kelly of Dillsburg, Pennsylvania.

Services were conducted Friday, May 21, 1993 at 10:00 A.M. from the Cocklin Funeral Home at Dillsburg, Pennsylvania with Elder John L. Peffer officiating. Burial was in the Emanuel Cemetery, Lewisberry, Pennsylvania.

God saw her getting tired, and cure was not to be.

So He put His arms around and whispered, "Come with me."

With tearful eyes we watched her and saw her pass away.

Although we loved her dearly we could not make her stay.

A golden heart stopped beating, hard-working hands at rest.

God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best.

NEWS ITEMS

PINE RIDGE, MISSISSIPPI

The Pine Ridge Congregation at Collins, Mississippi, invites and urges you to attend our Lovefeast service November 27 and 28. This is the Thanksgiving week-end.

Come if you can. We are isolated and need encouragement from those who love the Lord.

Sister Ruth Ann Wells, Cor.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation (Act of August 12, 1970; Section 3685, Title 39, United States Code). Showing the ownership, management and circulation of The Bible Monitor, published semi-monthly at Wauseon, Ohio 43567, October 15, 1993.

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2. There are no stockholders, bond holders or other security holders.

3. The average number of copies per issue distributed by mail and otherwise the previous twelve months was 1,347.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 1993

November 7 - Signs of the End - Matthew 24:1-51.

1. What events are listed as "the beginning of sorrows"?
2. What should be our attitude and activities as we await the coming of the Lord?

November 14 - The Kingdom - Matthew 25:1-46.

1. How should we watch for the coming of the Lord?
2. Have you sought out the "least of these" today?

November 21 - Thanksgiving - Psalm 100.

1. How do we make a joyful noise to the Lord?
2. How many blessings can you count in this Psalm?

November 28 - The Last Supper - Matthew 26:1-35.

1. Ponder the similarities and difference between the Passover and the Lord's Supper.
2. What are the blessings and purpose of the Lord's Supper?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 1993

November 7 - Decisions - Ex. 32:26, Deut. 30:19, Jos. 25:15, I Kings 18:21, Matt. 27:17.

1. How do the decisions we make today affect our future?
2. Whose counsel should we seek in making decisions?

November 14 - New Wine in Old Bottles - Matt. 9:15-17, Mark 2:19-28, Luke 5:36-39.

1. What is the spiritual lesson in this parable?
2. What problems in the early church illustrate this parable?

November 21 - Thanksgiving - Psalm 119:57-64, Dan. 2:20-23, Luke 17:15-19, Eph. 5:4, 20.

1. How are contentment and thanksgiving related?
2. Are you thankful you have not received what you really deserve? Psalm 103:10.

November 28 - The Lost Sheep - Matt. 18:11-14, Luke 15:1-7.

1. Why did the shepherd go after the one lost sheep?
2. How should "rescued sheep" live in the fold?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 21

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

SENSITIVENESS

Time was I shrank from what was right,
From fear of what was wrong;
I would not brave the sacred fight
Because the foe was strong.

But now I cast that finer sense
And sorer shame aside;
Such dread of sin was indolence,
Such aim at heaven was pride.

So when my Saviour calls I rise,
And calmly do my best;
Leaving to Him, with silent eyes
Of hope and fear, the rest.

I step, I mount, where He has led;
Men count my haltings o'er;
I know them; yet, though self I dread,
I love His precept more.

- John Henry Newman

DISJOINTED LIVES

I Corinthians 3:1-15

Machinery correctly designed will function properly. If the gears do not mesh, if the pulleys are not aligned, if the shafts do not work together, the machine will fail to work or will be broken down often.

It is unfortunate that there are many Christian lives which are as disjointed as broken down machinery. It would be expected to find this disjointedness in non-Christian lives due to the lack of the Holy Spirit. Lives just cannot be right if God is left out of them. God created people to worship and serve Him, if they do not recognize that part of their lives, they are going to be disjointed.

Perhaps, one of the reasons why Christian's lives are disjointed is that they had not sufficiently counted the cost before they decided to give themselves to the Lord. Alexander Mack was very concerned that those who chose to follow Jesus through faith, repentance and baptism would count seriously the cost of discipleship. If there is little cost involved with discipleship, it will be perceived as being of little value. If discipleship has little value, it will elicit little effort. Modern Christianity knows little of sacrifice and persecution. There is little expected of today's Christian. Accordingly he gives little. Too often the desire to be a Christian is an emotional response to nostalgia or an overly emotional appeal. For too many Christians, Christianity is a one time decision needing no further effort in Christian living. They have not counted the cost nor have they fully enjoyed the yielded Christian life. Because they do not value their Christian lives, they have become disjointed.

Beyond a one time decision, there lies a lifetime of service, devotion and committment. There needs to be a continual growth in

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Spiritual things. When Paul wrote to the Corinthians, he admonished them for their lack of Spiritual growth. They had received only the basic Christian doctrine. They were too immature to receive the "meat" of the Word. They had not grown in faith and knowledge. They were like babies who failed to thrive. They were disjointed.

The group at Corinth was disjointed because of division. Some were adherents of Paul; others of Apollos. He reprimanded them for making a division between two men who were working together to accomplish God's work. He reminded them that he had sowed the seed by first preaching the gospel to them. Some time later Apollos nurtured what Paul had sown. Each had had a part in the work of converting and organizing the Church at Corinth. He wanted them to realize that whatever he and Apollos had done, their part had been the minor part, for God had performed the major part in giving the increase. God brought the harvest through the giving of His Son. They were disjointed as long as they were divided.

Instead of tearing themselves apart they were to be building upon the foundation that had been laid for them. The foundation for their Christian lives had been laid in the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. There was no other foundation that they could build upon if they were to be successful. A foundation must be laid to build a solid building. A foundation that is laid, but no building is raised upon it, will disintegrate eventually. The foundation must be covered by a building. Both parts are necessary to have a complete building. They could not lay the foundation; they could only accept the foundation provided by God. It was their work to build solidly upon that foundation. It was very important how they built. They had a wide choice of building material. The same materials are available to all who make the choice to rear their Spiritual house upon God's foundation. They can build either with indestructible materials, represented by gold, silver and precious stones, or they can build with the unending materials represented by wood, hay, and stubble.

Gold, silver and precious stones only melt when subjected to high temperatures, but they are not destroyed. The wood, hay and stubble are highly combustible. Only a little ash will be left after a fire. If Christians are building upon the foundation with less than the best, they are in danger of having all their efforts go for naught. Christians need to realize the terrific price God has paid to provide their Spiritual foundation. Realizing that value they should build their lives accordingly.

How are you building your Christian life? Is it in perfect alignment with God's will or is it disjointed?

SOME THOUGHTS ON WITCHES

Exodus 22:18, "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live."

Deuteronomy 18:10, "There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch."

The Bible speaks of various things that modern man has rejected as not actually existing except in the mind of individuals. It is our humble opinion that we have allowed modern day science, so called, to cause many to question the reliability of Holy Scripture. Commentaries are sometimes very helpful, but we believe they can also often be misleading when they try to explain certain Scriptural realities.

The area most often rejected by modern day thinkers is the supernatural. Many deny that Satan is a real being along with his demons. Another trick of human reasoning is to make Bible realities into something that the Bible never suggests. The Bible speaks of the unicorn. But it never suggests that this animal was a "horse" with a single horn in the middle of its forehead. By the same token, when the Bible speaks of a witch it is not talking about an old woman who wears a tall black hat and rides on a broomstick with a black cat on the back.

The Bible makes it very clear that witches actually exist, or at least once did. God demanded that such individuals be put to death, showing His displeasure with this practice. We do not believe that the Salem Witch Trials, which were a part of our early American history, were of God. The New Testament makes it very clear that Christians are not to take human life.

Just how an individual becomes a witch is not made entirely clear in Holy Scripture. But it would seem to be a form of demon possession. In I Samuel 28 King Saul sought out "a woman that hath a familiar spirit." Conservative scholars would describe this as a demon. They also usually refer to the woman as "the witch of Endor," although the Bible does not name the woman as a witch. One thing is certain, an individual is not born a witch anymore than an individual is born a homosexual or a lesbian, in spite of modern day "scientific findings."

The fact that it is mentioned along with those who "maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire" would indicate that witches are related in some way to false religion. Today we have those who are not ashamed to declare themselves to be witches. Whether or not they actually have supernatural powers we are not sure. But it is certainly an abomination to God when liberal christianity recognizes them as one of the acceptable religious movements of the day!

In I Samuel 15:23 we read, "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,..." The religion of witchcraft, at least in our modern day, is primarily that of women in leadership. Putting a woman in authority over men in a church setting is rebellion against Holy Scripture. We sincerely hope that women will not become involved in any activities, where they teach or preach to men.

It is very clear that many so called "Bible believing churches" are in rebellion against Holy Scripture. In Galatians 5:20 witchcraft is listed along with the works of the flesh. All of those listed are a desire to please the flesh and disregard the needs and feelings of others. A preacher may tell you that God is not concerned about how you wear your hair, what type of clothes you wear or whether or not you wear jewelry, but God classifies disregard for these things as rebellion which He says is as the sin of witchcraft. We may feel very sanctimonious in our plain suits and cape dresses, and we believe God is pleased with this type of dress. But if we have hatred and strife among us we are no better than those who follow the world and its customs.

We can expect the world to disregard the desires of our Lord, but we sometimes wonder just how far they will go. According to an article in a local newspaper, the August issue of Vogue, a fashion magazine, says it is now fashionable for women to practice cross-dressing in religious garb. Included in this is what we call the plain suit! As the writer says, "The only good thing we can find in the fall "fashions" is, they probably will be forgotten in six months." Many liberal churches have followed the world in wearing slacks, shorts and other unacceptable clothing by God's standards. We hope they will not follow the latest trend! We also hope that our men will not lay off the plain coat just because some worldly women (and according to the article even a few worldly men) decide to put it on. As we said before, witchcraft is a substitute for the true way of our Lord. Society and worldly churches will mock those who desire to follow the Lord in all His ways, but let us stand fast.

In Acts 16 Paul encountered a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination. We would probably call her a fortune-teller, which would be very closely related to a witch. Paul demanded that the spirit leave her. We believe that we can offer salvation to proclaimed witches of our day through the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus Christ. If you are in rebellion against the Word of God this is also for you. (We are not judging who is saved and who is not.) The blood can also heal our hearts of hate and strife. Let us avoid witchcraft and follow our Lord.

Brother James M. Hite
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IN WHOM WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD

Ephesians 1:7

Redemption demands a price, and here we see "The precious price that bought us was His atoning blood." Observe first, it is here only that a poor, burdened conscience can find relief. Under a sense of guilt, by the blood of the cross we can approach the footstool of mercy, and bow before the most high God. He has showed us what is good. We hear the voice that cries, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!" It is this that constitutes the gospel of glad tidings. It assures us that "the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth from all sin." There are those who have tried it, and can therefore speak of its sufficiency from their own experience. By believing, they have entered into rest. Not only have their consciences been tranquilized, but they have joy in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, "in whom we have redemption through his blood," and, "by whom they have now received the atonement. Let us follow their example, and say:

Jesus, my great High-Priest,
Offered his blood and died.
My guilty conscience seeks
No sacrifice beside.
His powerful blood did once atone,
And now he pleads before the throne.

Observe, secondly, that the love of the Savior, as herein displayed, should **POWERFULLY IMPRESS OUR MINDS**. The kings of the earth have often sacrificed the lives of their subjects for the safety of their own. Even when their lives have not been in jeopardy they have immolated millions and millions on the altar of their pride and vanity and revenge. Name one earthly king that gave his life for the lives of his subjects. But it is said of Jesus, that "he shall save the souls of the needy", that "precious is their blood in his sight." He said Himself, "I give my life for the life of the world." "Herein is love" for "greater love hath no man than this, that a man should lay down his life for his friends." Jesus has done this. He has done more. He also died for His enemies. Lastly, if "in him we have redemption, through his blood," **WE ARE NOT OUR OWN**. What a man has purchased is surely his own. If He has purchased us, then we belong to Him exclusively. What a clear and undeniable claim He has! It is here He has wooed and won. It is here He has drawn, and here He binds us "with the cords of a man and the bands of

love." It is, as William Cowper says, "a soul redeemed" who passes through the world perpetually singing, "to Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever." Let this be said not only "by our lips, but also by our lives," "by giving ourselves up to His service, and by walking before Him in holiness and righteousness all our days."

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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SIXTY YEARS AGO

November 1, 1933

WHERE THE SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPS

F. B. Surbey

The Dunkard Brethren Church recognizes the need of the Sunday School by outlining methods of organization, providing lessons for study, and by conducting schools in her local congregations. Where-in is the Sunday School needed or helpful? What is the mission or purpose of the Sunday School?

We call attention to three avenues in which the Sunday School, if properly conducted, supplies a need and thus accomplishes her purpose.

First: The Sunday School teaches children the Bible. As early as 1789 Annual Conference minutes show that the Church realized that the homes in general were failing to carry out the commands in Deut. 6:4-9 and Eph. 6:4. The result of this failure was that the children became coarse, vulgar and sinful in their manner of living. The advice of the Church was that there should be more teaching of the children in the Word of God so as to provoke them to love God and appreciate His word, which are steps toward the desired end — the salvation of their souls.

The attitude of present day homes to the above named scriptures is no better than it was in 1789, and therefore the Sunday School of today has an opportunity and a duty along the line of teaching children the Bible. Not only that they may know what the Bible contains, but also that they may learn to live earnest Christian lives in obedience to the commands.

Second: The Sunday School teaches young people and instills in them specific Christian principles and Christian ideals of life. Children in the home, and young people in society and in the business world need to learn the difference between worldly principles and methods taught by Christ and the prophets.

As the Sunday School teaches the children the character studies of the Bible and the teachings of Jesus in the New Testament, they will learn to love unselfishness, humility, industry, honesty, courage, purity, trust and such like virtues so much lacking in many of the young people of today. The Sunday School has a golden opportunity and a serious responsibility along this line, and the Lord blesses her efforts with visible results.

Third: The Sunday School teaches young people about the Church, her origin, ordinances, and saving power, and thus helps to prepare them to become the future pillars of the church. As young people learn how the Church was instituted, what her ordinances are, and where the Bible teaching on each of these is, they will begin to think that the Church is for them and will then find their place in it. While engaging in the sacred ordinances they will recall that in the Sunday School they learned why these are observed and what they mean and will therefore enjoy them all the more and will go forth living the graces taught by the formal ceremonies.

Because the Sunday School has taught the value of the Church and brought to light the gospel teaching on the ordinances to be observed, those accepting the plan of salvation and entering the Church are now happy in the service of the Master and made to resolve that the Church of their fathers is their Church and that it shall not perish from their several communities.

Is our Sunday School a real help to the cause of the Master and in the promoting of His kingdom? Are all of us doing our part to make our Sunday School a success? The good accomplished by a good Sunday School is not measured in dollars and cents now, but will be revealed in eternity only.

GEMS FOR THOUGHT

1. He who cannot forgive others, builds the bridge over which he must pass himself.
2. Morality does not make a Christian, yet no man can be a Christian without it.
3. God has two dwelling places, one in Heaven, and the other in the hearts of saints.
4. Ad for a Health Club, "Come in and dispose of your solid WAIST."
5. Shake any family tree and a few nuts will fall.
6. Anyone who calls a rose by any other name is probably pruning the bush.
7. Many people who have the gift of gab, don't know how to wrap it up.

8. When it comes to body language, there are some people who have better vocabularies than others.
9. A lie has no two legs to stand on, but it still gets around.
10. More men are tried and found wanting than are tried and found guilty.
11. Success is merely a matter of putting your KNOWS to the grindstone.
12. Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? "He that walketh uprightly and speaketh the truth in his heart."
13. He that loseth his honesty, has nothing else to lose.
14. Truth is the summit of being.
15. Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.
16. Statistics are human beings with the tears wiped off.
17. Always say what you are going to do, then do it. That is the glue and fiber that binds successful relationships.
18. Most people ask for advice, when they know the answer, but want a different one.
19. To carry a grudge is like being stung to death by one bee.
20. Today a man is known by the companies he merges.
21. An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in.
22. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.
23. Through the miracle of modern communication, we can hear the same news all day long.

Compiled by Brother Paul R. Myers
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PRAISING GOD – MAKES YOU TRIUMPHANT IN BATTLE

Wesley Duewel

Prayer and praise must never be separated. Prayer and praise are the two wings by which our souls mount into the heavenlies. If either one is neglected, we fail to mount up with wings as eagles. Isa. 40:31.

Prayer and praise are the two steps by which the army of the Lord marches forward. As surely as soldiers march always "left, right, left, right" so we must keep our praising as up-to-date as our praying – if we would advance for God.

We are all in danger of neglecting prayer, and we are perhaps all in even greater danger of neglecting praise. Many a prayer meeting would come to new life and power – if men began to praise the Lord.

If there is anything that is a better gauge of the spiritual life than the prayer life, it is the praise life. Satan fears prayer. If there is anything which Satan fears more than prayer, it is praise.

God Waits to Hear the Voices of His Children

It is the sweetest of music to His ear. If there is anything He delights to hear more than the voice of prayer and petition, it is the voice of praise and adoration.

Prayer Adds Its Sweet Perfume to the Christian's Life

If there is anything which makes the Christian's life even more fragrant, it is praise. It is not a question of prayer OR praise – we must keep the two together. We are to pray without ceasing, and much time also should be given to praise. Luke 21:36; I Thess. 5:17; Heb. 13:12-15.

Praise Makes the Soul Beautiful

It is perhaps the most heavenly activity in which the soul can engage. A life filled with praise becomes almost angelic. Praise, thanksgiving, love, adoration – these make the life radiant.

The Holy Spirit Shines Through the Christian's Life That Is Saturated with Praise

The Shekinah glory of God marks the life that rejoices evermore, in everything gives thanks, and radiates pure love for God and others. I Thess. 5:16-18; Rom. 5:5.

Praise adds sweetness to the voice; praise adds loveliness to the soul. Praise fills the life with song, the heart with joy, and adds a graciousness to all of life. Praise clothes with heaven's beauty.

Praise Opens the Gates to Blessing

Praise needs to be put literally first in prayer. It is significant that in the future prophesied glory, when our walls are "Salvation", our gates will be "Praise." Isaiah 60:18. "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise." Psalm 100:4.

There is no more worthy entrance into the presence of God than the entrance of praise. Praise opens the gates to blessing. Praise opens the way to answered prayer. Praise opens the way to the very heart of God.

"Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with rejoicing." Psalm 107:21-22.

Praise Multiplies the Presence and Power of the Lord

It is a secret of the blessed life – that praise not merely adds blessing, it multiplies every blessing of God. Praise fills the life with the atmosphere of heaven.

There are times when it is not easy to praise... but "By Him... let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name." Heb. 13:15. When you begin to praise, the disquiet of your heart, the restlessness and fear of soul begins to disappear like fog before sunshine.

When you begin to praise, peace is blessedly multiplied within your soul. When you begin to praise, sorrow is turned to joy.

When you begin to praise, grumbling and criticism is withered to the roots, the breath of heaven blows the clouds away, and you feel so clean and new again. When you begin to praise, Satan turns in terror and soon flees away.

Praising God – opens your heart to God, and to all His sweet heavenly influences.

Praising God gives the Holy Spirit welcome and right of way in your life. Praising God lifts you above the trivial accusations of Satan. Praising God reduces your problem mountains – into hills of blessing!

Praising God gives you the eagle's vision, and by the eye of faith you see the victory ahead! Praising God multiplies your faith and fills you with joy and peace in believing. Rom. 15:13.

Praising God seems to fill you with the very faith of God and to strengthen you with the power of the Holy Ghost. Praising God changes you – and changes the situation before you! Praising God opens the way to miracle.

Praising God makes you triumphant in the battle. Praising God brings to your aid all the resources of heaven. The angels of God recognize the sound of praise and rush to your side to win the victory for God. Praising God brings the shout of victory in the midst of the battle.

Praising God turns the battle into a rout of the enemy.

In the battle in the time of Jehospaphat when the king and people humbled themselves and sought God's face, He put His Spirit on an unknown Levite and gave them a message of hope. They believed the promise of God and marched into battle – with singers praising God in front of the battle troops. "And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments. II Chron. 20:22.

Praise sets an ambush for the devil; no wonder he flees at the sound of praise! When Israel praised God, the walls of Jericho fell down. When Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God, the Lord shook open the doors of the jail of Philippi. Acts 16:23-34.

And when YOU begin to praise the Lord – new victories will dawn for YOU!

This was the secret which David learned, and we all need to learn it over and over.

Hear David testify, "I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth." Psalm 34:1. "My tongue shall speak of... Thy praise all the day. Psalm 71:8.

"Who can shew forth all His praise?" Psalm 106:2. "I will hope continually, and will yet praise Thee more and more... I will go in the strength of the Lord." Psalm 71:14, 16. Can you not see why David was a man after God's own heart? Acts 13:22. Let us make this year a year of praise. Begin by making this day a day of praise. Begin by filling your heart with God's praises wherever you go. Begin by praising the Lord the first thing each morning.

Begin by praising God every time you feel tempted to doubt, to fear, to worry, to criticize, to yield to any kind of temptation. Praise fills you with faith and power.

Praise clothes you with heaven's beauty. Praise opens the gates to blessing. Praise wins the battle for God.

"Praise the Lord, O my soul. While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto my God." Psalm 146:1-2.

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

The Friend of Birds

J. H. Moore

Among living creatures there is nothing that is more admired than birds. The ease with which they make their way through the air, and the perfect freedom they enjoy, make them the envy of many a thinking person. One never grows tired watching birds on the wing, or as they leap from limb to limb among the trees. They seem to be at home on the swinging branch of a lofty tree, on the ground, or while passing through the air. For grace and independence of movement there is nothing to equal them. To be able to navigate the air has been the ambition of civilized man for all generations. Man longs to fly like a bird and enjoy the same freedom of the air. In a limited way he may be able to reach the object of his ambition, but he is not likely to enjoy the freedom which, by right of creation, belongs to the fowls of the air.

Man has never made himself the friend of the little feathered beings. He has chosen rather to be known as their enemy. He has acted like an enemy. From boyhood he has made a point in life to frighten the birds. He treats them as enemies and outlaws, not knowing, seemingly, that they are man's best friends. True, they may eat some of the delicious fruits and destroy a little grain, but, on the other hand, each bird destroys thousands of worms and bugs that harm growing crops. In this way he more than pays for his living.

It would be delightful if man could live on friendly terms with the interesting birds of the country. Let him treat them kindly and cultivate their friendship, and they will show the utmost confidence in him. There are parks in which birds are never frightened by man and they have become as tame as kittens. Were we always to treat them kindly, they would soon have for us the love that casteth out all fear.

If men and women would live on better terms with the birds around them, they would be better and happier beings. They would often feed the lovely little creatures, provide watering places for them and learn to take an interest in their welfare. They would soon find themselves less selfish, and discover that this world, with its myriads of living objects, is a great deal better place than they had been led to think. They would be charmed by the little tokens of confidence and regard, shown by the birds that visit their premises. They would study their habits and become interested in their migration movements, as well as in their great meetings, for our friends of the air have their conventions, discuss their questions and problems, reach conclusions, and act on them as their bird wisdom may direct.

In this connection we are reminded of one of the sights that might have been witnessed in Paris a few years ago. There was a woman who daily fed the birds in the gardens of the Tuileries. No one seemed to know the lady, and in fact she spoke to no one, but made it her business to cultivate a close acquaintance with her little friends of the air and feed them. A gentleman who had the privilege of witnessing the scene gave this description of the woman and her manner of dealing with her feathered companions:

"Crossing the Tuileries Garden on one of the late mild days. my attention was attracted by an immense commotion among the sparrows which abound in that locality. They were chattering and flying to and fro, and finally collected in swarms at a single point. There I saw the cause of their agitation, the well-known bird-charmer of the Tuileries Garden. She is a person about thirty years of age, pale, with very black hair, dressed in the deepest mourning and wearing no bonnet. She was surrounded by birds that hopped and perched right at her feet, or flew circling round her head, apparently without the slightest fear.

"She would hold out a bit of bread, and instantly three or four would hover around it with rapidly-whirling wings, like humming birds around a flower, some perched on her fingers, while others would peck at the coveted morsel on the wing. Then she would throw crumbs into the air, which would be adroitly caught by the swiftest-winged birds before they reached the ground. A shower of crumbs brought the little creatures to her feet like chickens, nor did the presence of the by-standers, who soon collected in great

numbers, appear to terrify her proteges in the least. They seemed to feel perfectly secure in the presence of their benefactress. She walked slowly on, followed and surrounded by hundreds of the eager, fluttering birds."

He who would number his friends by the hundred may do well to cultivate the friendship of the birds.

IF WE KNEW JESUS WOULD COME TONIGHT

The churches would be filled with praying people immediately.

The shows, beer joints, dance halls, gambling dens, and other godless places would be emptied.

There would be no more ball games, nor picture shows, or other worldly affairs.

Cursing, swearing, and vulgar language would stop.

There would be no bean suppers or hamburger fries in the churches tonight.

Women would wash the paint off of their faces, and put on enough clothes to be decent.

Beauty parlors would have to shut their doors, for no one wants to look like a clown when they meet Jesus.

Men and women would throw their tobacco away and no more would be used.

Parents would burn up the filthy literature, cards and other devilish trash out of their homes.

There would be no petting parties by the roadside or in the homes.

No one would have to be begged to take part in the Lord's work, for all want to be busy when He comes.

There would be no lies told, nor any excuses made for not doing our duty to God.

People who had been holding grudges would be running around trying to get forgiveness of their fellow man.

The old long-tongued gossips would stop their devilish lying and start begging God for mercy.

The modernistic preachers would hunt frantically through their notebooks for a sermon on real salvation, and would hurriedly burn their godless, modernistic sermons and books.

"Eternal Security" preachers and believers would suddenly decide that they were not too secure and would start begging God to forgive them for sending so many souls to hell for giving them false hope that they would be saved even if they backslid and died without complete repentance and turning from all sin.

Compromising holiness preachers would suddenly realize how wrong they were and begin to beg God to save them.

Television sets would be shut off and an effort made to get rid of them before the Lord arrived.

Merchants would be swamped with calls from those who wanted to pay off old debts and clear up unfilled obligations.

God's work would be flooded with money as delinquents sought to pay up their tithes and offerings which they had withheld.

Men and women who are living in adultery with one of the opposite sex would suddenly desert them in an effort to clean up their immoral life.

Refrigerators would be emptied of beer, wine and everything else that comes under the condemnation of God.

The few hours left before the arrival of the Lord would be a "Heaven on earth", as everyone sought to do just exactly what they thought the Lord would have them do.

Poor families would be fed; sick people would be comforted; jails would be visited; those in trouble would receive help; as all would seek to meet God's requirement of "inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me."

Well, Jesus is coming, Brother, and we don't know how soon. IF you do not want to be doing these things when He comes, you had better quit them now. We had better "Cleanse ourselves of ALL filthiness of the flesh and spirit perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord." (II Cor. 7:1) For Jesus gave His life for the Church "that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it unto Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Eph. 5:27.

Matt. 25:13. "... Watch therefore for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh."

Heb. 12:14, "Holiness without which no man shall see the Lord."

Are you ready for His Coming?

NEWS ITEM

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Pleasant Home Congregation is looking forward to their Lovefeast Meeting, November 5, 6, 7, 1993. The Examination Service will be held Friday Evening. Preaching on Saturday morning at 10:00 A.M. The Lovefeast Service will be held Saturday at 6:00 P.M. There will be regular services on Sunday.

You are invited to enjoy this Lovefeast Meeting with us.

Sister Edith Moss, Cor.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

GRATEFUL REVIEW

Our helper, God, we bless thy name,
Whose love forever is the same;
The tokens of thy gracious care
Begin, and crown, and close the year.

Amid ten thousand snares we stand,
Supported by thy guardian hand;
And see, when we review our ways,
Ten thousand monuments of praise.

Thus far thine arm has led us on;
Thus far we make thy mercy known;
And while we tread this desert land,
New mercies shall new songs demand.

Our grateful souls, on Jordan's shore,
Shall raise one sacred pillar more;
Then bear, in thy bright courts above,
Inscriptions of immortal love.

NOT BY BREAD ALONE

The children of Israel paused on the other side of the Jordan River before entering the Promised Land. They were on the verge of attaining their long-delayed goal. Before they were allowed to enter that longed-for land, Moses recounted their journey. More importantly, he repeated for them the Law, God had given them. They would have no excuse for not knowing what was required of them. He wanted them to live as those delivered by the Lord. Those entering the Promised Land were the ones, except for Caleb and Joshua, who had been born during the journey or were young when they left Egypt.

Moses reminded them of how they had been delivered, often miraculously, not only from their enemies, but also from severe physical need. They had been fed and given drink throughout the journey. They had been unable to help and preserve themselves. They could only depend upon God. They had also been taught a way of life, that they might not only worship the God who had delivered them, but also acknowledge Him through their lives. As they prepared to enter the Promised Land, they truly had much to be thankful for. God wanted not only their words of adoration and praise, He wanted them to live as a people expressing their thanks through their lives.

They could remember the manna that had been given to them, when no other food was available. It had appeared miraculously. They had been given definite directions for gathering and storing this bread. They were to gather only what they could actually use. It would not pay to hoard it for it would stink. However, they were to gather a double portion the day before the Sabbath, so they would not have to gather on the Sabbath day. Although a double amount

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was collected it would not stink as the left over portions did other days. This might be a lesson to us that we should do all the work possible on Saturday, so Sunday does not become a day of labor like any other day of the week.

Water had been provided for them, even in the midst of the dry desert. Moses had struck the rock and water had come gushing forth. Later when he should have spoken to the rock, he, again, struck the rock. Water came forth again, but Moses was punished for his disobedience. That rock represents Christ, the Rock of our faith and salvation. He can only be struck once, which we do when we accept the work He did for us through His death, burial and resurrection. By expressing our faith in His sacrifice, we are acknowledging that He died for our sins. He was struck for us. Afterwards we approach Him as our Advocate. We ask for His intercession with the Father. We do not again crucify Him as our sacrifice.

Food and water were provided during this journey, along with all the other necessities of life. There are many wants we desire, but our true needs are few. Our wants may or may not be good for us. Since they are not necessary, they may not be granted to us, although many are. We should be thankful that our needs are met. The extras that we receive in life should increase our thankfulness.

Too often we become, as the children of Israel, murmurers and complainers. When our basic needs are met we are often more thankful than when some, but not all, of our wants are met. Somehow, receiving some of the things that we have desired has caused us to want more and then complain when we do not receive all that we want. Ofttimes we are more thankful for a few needed things than we are for many unnecessary things.

We may become too wrapped up with material objects. We must realize that man's life consists of more than food, drink and possessions. Moses wanted the children of Israel to realize before they possessed "the land flowing with milk and honey" that they needed to remember the God who had delivered them not only out of bondage, but had led and fed them throughout the desert journey and was now ready to lead them into the Promised Land. This God has provided us with the means of escape from the bondage of sin and Satan through Jesus Christ. He provides for our material and Spiritual needs throughout our earthly journey. He has also prepared for His faithful and obedient followers mansions in His House. We have received greater gifts than the children of Israel. We have received the "real thing". They had only a temporal, figurative view of these great Spiritual gifts, that are ours to possess.

The children of Israel should have been a very thankful people for all God had done for them. We should be even more thankful for we have received even greater gifts. Man lives not by bread alone.

MCC

A PRAISE OF THANKSGIVING

(Psalm 34:1-8)

"I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth." In Ephesians 5:20 we read, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." As human beings we are prone to complain. We want rain when it suits us and we want sunshine every day we have something special planned. Some individuals go to the extreme of saying that we should thank God for tragedies that are a part of our life and those we love. We believe it would be foolish to thank God if one of our children would go so far out in sin that they would break the law of the land and end up in prison. We are not asked to thank God when our children rebel against the church and all that we have struggled to teach them. But even in a situation as sad as this we can say, "I will bless the LORD at all times." This type of situation is no reason for us to turn our back on God and the church. Rather, our desire should be that "his praise shall continually be in my mouth."

"My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad." It is interesting that David, who wrote this psalm, says "My soul shall make 'her' boast in the LORD." David was not a Christian but perhaps God allowed him to look forward to the time when he would be a part of the redeemed of all ages in the church eternal. There are some strange teachings, in our opinion, concerning the bride of Christ. We believe the Bible teaches that all the saved, those in the Old Testament and before the death of Christ looking forward to this event and those after this event looking back, who have the benefit of Christ's shed blood on Calvary will be a part of the bride of Christ. Oh, let us thank God for this precious gift that God has bestowed on mankind. As we show our thanks by sharing with others, those who will humble themselves and confess their need of a Savior will hear with their heart as well as their ears and be glad when they receive a new life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

"O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together." We can get excited about some of the strangest things.

The world, and even some professed Christians, can get excited about a professional sports event. We often get excited about a new vehicle or a new house. But very few Christians seem to get excited about the Lord. The Lord Jesus Christ is worthy of our praise. We cannot understand why some are opposed to someone saying "Amen," "praise the Lord," or "Hallelujah" in a meeting. But this is not the most important way we magnify the Lord and exalt his name together. The most important way we do this is by obedience to his teachings. When we wash feet we are magnifying the Lord and exalting his name. All of the things we practice together as a church magnifies the Lord and exalts His name. Let us thank God for a church that is willing to follow Holy Scripture. Let us strive to magnify the Lord, exalt His name together as we walk in His will and His ways.

"I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears." Thank God we do not have to fear but we can put our trust in the Lord. At one time we had a terrible fear of dying. But God gave us perfect peace in this area. PRAISE HIS NAME! Many are fearful that the banks will go under and their money will be worthless. At one time the fear of nuclear war was in the minds of many. Now many fear that a false peace will bring disaster. But the child of God does not have to worry about such things. We know that our future is in the hands of God.

"They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed." Thank God we do not have to be ashamed to look like a Christian! Today men and women are not ashamed to practice evil openly that at one time was considered "closet practices." Wearing a plain hat and a plain beard has nothing to do with our salvation, but it is certainly not something to be ashamed of! Sisters, you can wear your prayer veil without shame knowing you are being obedient to Holy Scripture. Thank God our sisters do not have to paint their faces to display their beauty. Those who look and dress like the world should be ashamed but are not. We repeat, let us never be ashamed to look like a Christian.

"This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles." No matter what trouble in life you face, God will be there to take you through and give you victory in the end.

"The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." If we have holy, reverential fear of the Lord there is nothing in this life that we must fear. Thank the Lord!

"O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him." If you have never accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, "O taste and see that the Lord is good."

He is the bread of life and the spring of living water. As the song writer said:

"Thank you Lord for saving my soul.
Thank you Lord for making me whole.
Thank you Lord for giving to me,
Thy great salvation, so rich and free."

Brother James M. Hite
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SIXTY YEARS AGO

November 15, 1933

THANKSGIVING

L. W. Beery

With the approach of this season of the year, because of a custom of long standing in our land, our attention is called to the need of a special giving of thanks. In view of this we think it well to send along a few thoughts in keeping with this subject. Because of our proneness to forget and become careless and indifferent in matters of importance such as this, we need to be reminded and exhorted from time to time.

That there is need for the children of God to give thanks, we cannot question. The scriptures tell us, "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (I Thess. 5:18.)

Naturally when we through our Savior become meek and submissive and obedient to the will of God this responsibility is incumbent upon us. Not only are we commanded thus, but Jesus and His faithful followers in the early church have given us examples in this line. In regard to our Lord, the gospel says, "He took the cup and gave thanks. When He had given thanks, He took bread and gave thanks – after, the Lord had given thanks," etc., and the apostles in like manner. It would be surprising to many if they would just sit down with their Bible and look up the references on this subject, to find how often the giving of thanks is mentioned.

It might be well for us to take account of our own conduct and see just how well we are complying with the foregoing reference from I Thess. and the example given us by them of old. When we pause and consider the commandment it soon dawns upon us that it covers a wide scope. In "everything give thanks." Though it may be well for us to observe a special day of "Thanksgiving" it can easily be seen from what we have given us in precept and example that

the giving of thanks is a daily requisite. For a little more light on this subject we turn to I Tim. 2:1-4. "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life in all Godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." Here we are told that in connection with prayer, "First, of all" giving of thanks should be made for all men. This calls our attention to the words of our Master, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness." Surely Thanksgiving is one of the first requisites in the righteousness of the kingdom of God.

It would be impossible to enumerate all the things for which each one should be thankful. In the first place we should be thankful for our Savior who brought from heaven to earth a saving gospel and who atoned for our sins by the shedding of His own precious blood. Well, can we declare from the depths of our heart as one of old, "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." (II Cor. 9:15.) One cannot imagine the darkness and despair of the human family were it not for this Man of Galilee, "Who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." Then too, how thankful we should be that this gospel has been handed down to us in this late age in spite of all the efforts of Satan to destroy it. Since this gospel has been given to us so freely how gladly we should embrace it and with what joy and thanksgiving should we live its teaching.

The apostle Paul at one time declared, "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Cor. 15:57.) And again, "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ and maketh manifest the Savior of His knowledge by us in every place." (II Cor. 2:14.) Truly we should all rejoice because of this "victory" which we have in Christ Jesus. That through Him in like manner we can triumph over death, hell and the grave and be presented faultless before God our Maker with exceeding joy.

I am sure God is well pleased with thanksgiving that is genuine and given in sincerity and meekness. However, it is possible to offer thanks that are not acceptable. Jesus at one time declared after this manner, "Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written. This people honoreth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Mark 7:6-7.) Knowing this we should be sure that our thanksgiving is not only "lip service" but genuine and from the "heart." True thanksgiving is voluntary acknowledgements and confessions with gladness to God for his manifold blessings and mercies.

Although we are living in a time when it seems the whole world is in a turmoil and many are in sorrow and suffering, yet we should not be forgetful to daily offer thanks and praise to Him in whom we live and move and have our being. Likely if we would be more grateful and appreciative to our Maker for what we enjoy, our blessings in the future would be greater.

THANKSGIVING

Howard J. Surbey

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Eph. 5:20. We have so many blessings and so many provisions for our every good, that we should always give thanks for all things, to God in the name of Jesus. The Psalmist tells us that goodness and mercy shall follow all the days of our life and even after death, we can dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Give thanks for "all things". Just think for a minute of what you need to give thanks for. How long a list must you enumerate? Is it now so long that you must always give thanks and still there is not time enough, to cover each and every item. From this fact comes the conviction that one must always be in a thankful mood of attitude. Can you be in this attitude unless you are willing to love and serve Him? Can you be in this attitude, unless you are carrying out His commandments to the best of your ability?

We need to give thanks for His protecting care of us. We need to give thanks for our temporal blessings, which we must acknowledge are almost innumerable. We need to give thanks for our spiritual blessings, the fact that God's holy Will the Bible has been preserved for us. In this country of religious liberty, how many spiritual blessings do you have? With the christian fellowship which we can enjoy, what manner of person ought we to be in holy manners and conversation? We need to give thanks for the eternal blessings which we hope to enjoy in the future, of which we learn from His holy Word are too wonderful, too many, too long lasting for our carnal mind to even understand.

"O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us; and the truth of the Lord endureth forever. Praise ye the Lord." Ps. 117:1-2. This is the shortest chapter in the whole Bible, but my what a long list of praise it encourages. Why do not all the nations and all the people, praise the Lord God? Do all the nations and all the people have a reason to praise the Lord? Do you really think His merciful kindness is great toward you? If so, have you praised God for it? Have you enjoyed the truth of the Lord's Will? Dear reader if you have not I

fear you do not know what His truth is. Perhaps you have not read enough of His New Testament. If you have prayerfully read it, you have not obeyed enough of it, or you would be overflowing, with the happiness and joy of its experiences. Do not forget this truth of the Lord endureth forever. A fact worth our continual thanksgiving and praise.

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." I Pet. 2:9. Christ has called you, have you answered? "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." Do you realize the opportunities of being called by Christ? Do we act as though we had accepted this call? I doubt if our mind can realize the terrible, destructive, degrading, darkness of sin; from which Christ has called us. Nor can our carnal mind realize the greatness, blessedness and joyfulness of His marvelous light. What better way is there to show our elevated position than through our thanksgiving and praise? Are we ashamed to show it before those who know not our Lord? We are not living in a state of horrified darkness but rather a state of marvelous light, joy, pleasure and prosperity of the things which please our heavenly Father.

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son; In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins." Col. 1:12-14. Again we have the thought of our honorable position vividly portrayed, we have been delivered out from the power of darkness and established into the kingdom of the Son of Almighty God. Is this reason enough for thanksgiving and praise?

I doubt if we meditate enough upon the joy, the blessing and the great opportunities we have because we have been redeemed from sin. In our weak, changeable minds, we neither realize enough the terribleness of sin, nor the elevated and holy position as heirs and joint-heirs with Christ. God has "made us meet" made it possible for us, whomsoever we are, to partake of the inheritance of the saints. Someone has said, "Those who are not saints on earth, will never be saints in heaven." Have they made it too strong? In the light of God's Word, something is required of us and whose fault is it, if we are not saints while here on earth? Can you give better thanksgiving and praise unto God, than through strict observance of His commandments? How do we expect to thank and praise God, while practicing the sins of the world?

"I behold, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands;

Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." Rev. 5:11-13. Here is a picture of the Lord receiving the thanksgiving and praise due Him. This must certainly be a glorious scene, one worth our life to behold and take part in. People go to great effort and expense to be among crowds on this earth, what are you willing to sacrifice in order to be among that thankful crowd in heaven? How are you expressing your thanksgiving to God at this season of the year?

Selected from November 15, 1957 Bible Monitor

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Christian Simplicity

Have you ever heard the phrase "simplicity is for the simple?" That is pretty much the attitude of the world today. Unfortunately, it is also somewhat the attitude of the church as well. Because we live in a world of complexity, anything simple and uncomplicated is considered unworthy of consideration. Of course this has led to a lot of mental confusion and unrest, but people do not seem to understand from whence the problem comes.

It is essential for us to live lives that are uncomplicated and possibly even unattached to the world system. We CAN overcome the feeling of being overwhelmed by the intricacies of the issues of this age. Why is it that we go into despair about how the world puzzle fits together? Even as Christians, we struggle on the basic, personal level with an obsession to seek out status and experience extravagance. It is almost discouraging when we get tied too closely to the fast moving system. Now... I am not saying that we should quietly resign ourselves to the status quo of: "I just can't change the world and I don't even want to try." **OF COURSE WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.** Committed Christians have always turned the world upside down. But for Christ we can dare to venture out to communicate the message of salvation to the lost. We, however, do it without complexity. The more simple and straightforward we are, the more effective we will be.

Simplicity is a part of our call to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. It is not an "add-on" or an extra that we just tack on to our religious experience just as we would add on a room to our house. It is essential to the discipline of the Christian life. It is as essential as the wheels are to a car. Without them there is absolutely no function. It is essential to our prayer life and to our worship. It is

the conduit through which our obedience flows. And, in reality, it is the way we express our discipleship.

Already you might be saying, "Now Bro. Len, isn't this carrying this topic a little too far?" My answer is a "simple" NO! Remember whom we are to pattern our life after? His name is JESUS! He was a man of simplicity and was uncomplicated and straight forward. He did nothing in secret. He is amazing when we study His life. He was so transparent that He had no home, few worldly possession and yet He was totally devoted to His cause. Simplicity is very much a part of following Christ.

So, if there is simplicity, it must certainly be free, right? No. To be very frank, simplicity costs a great deal. But remember, the cost of duplicity and communion with the world costs the joyful communion with our Creator. It shows our lack of faith in His system that sees everything in the light of His perfection. It takes away our cheerfulness and ability to wait patiently on others... and on Him.

We are the only ones who can untangle ourselves from all of the intricacies of our complex universe. We CAN do it... if we are attentive to the voice of the Master. The only major decision we have to make is to "seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness." We must obey Him in every aspect of our walk on the face of His earth.

Why be frustrated when you can have peace? Why be stymied by the complexity of the 1990's? Live a life ordered and peaceful. Live each moment in tune with our Heavenly Father. His still small voice whispers the guidance that will allow us to have a radiant... yet simple life.

Jesus teaches us to share his yoke... and it is "easy." Does your life seem easy right now or does it seem to be flying apart? Could it be that we just need to uncomplicate things and keep in step with Christ? If we can do that we will discover that the crushing burden can melt away in the power of His presence and His willingness to carry our load.

Be quiet... and know that HE IS GOD. Come to a place of simplicity and experience the fullness of His joy.

Brother Len Wertz

HE IS KIND

"For he is kind to the unthankful and to the evil." Luke 6:35.

Ingratitude is the blackest of all crimes. "The ungrateful are like the grave, always receiving and never returning," but nothing can equal our ingratitude if we refrain from speaking in our Saviour's praise. We have no claim upon His benevolence. We are unworthy of the very least of His mercies. We are not only unworthy, but we

are undeserving, ill-deserving, and hell-deserving creatures. We have sinned ourselves completely into the hands of His justice, and He could both righteously and easily have destroyed us. Let us also think of the number and magnitude of the benefits which He bestows. Without dwelling on the creation, or nature, or examining His providence, though in referring to them we should "abundantly utter the memory of His great goodness," we will only notice those which refer to the Savior's coming "to seek and to save that which was lost," "to deliver us from the curse of the law," to save us from "the wrath to come," to emancipate us from the "bondage of corruption," to make us the sons and daughters of the Lord God Almighty, and to entitle us to an eternity of blessedness and honor insured to us and even begun in us here. Praise God! We must also consider how great a price was paid for us. We may do good deeds, but it may be to gain advantage or reputation, or it may be for some other reason, such as pressure or to deliver ourselves from a situation. But we "know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who though He was rich, yet He became poor." We know that He laid aside the Kingly crown, and became a servant. He was "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." We have seen Him in the manger, agonizing in the garden, and bleeding on the cross. And can we see this, without every feeling of our soul persuading us to exclaim:

Let him be crown'd with majesty
Who bowed his head in death;
And be his honor sounded high
By all things that have breath.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

The Anointing

J. H. Moore

It was one Sunday afternoon. Thus far the day had been pleasantly spent. The Sunday-school lesson in the morning was about Jesus the Good Shepherd. We had also listened to an excellent sermon concerning the leaven in three measures of meal. We felt that we had something on which to meditate during the week. But there was to be a change in the line of thought, for the time at least.

A young sister had been sick for weeks. She had suffered much, but during all her illness not a murmur or complaint had escaped her lips. To all who visited her she appeared as one perfectly resigned

to the will of God. While in good health she was much beloved, but in her sickness she seemed to have drawn the members still closer to her, and therefore closer to God. She, however, desired the anointing, and had called for the elders to perform the sacred and solemn rite. They came at her request, and others came also.

An air of solemnity seemed to pervade the place. All felt that they had come together for no ordinary purpose. Without the gentle showers were coming down, and all nature was smiling. Every flower and every spear of grass appeared to be delighted, for they were drinking in the forces that were dropping from the clouds. But why should nature do anything but rejoice! The hand that made the smiling vegetation was diffusing his blessings through the clouds. It is not too much to say that the scene without was in keeping with the scene within. The earnest men and women of God had come together, seeking a blessing first for the young sister and then for themselves. They knew that the Father of our spirits had promised to bless those who in good faith call for the anointing. In appearance they may have seemed sad, but within there was joy in the Holy Ghost.

Around the well-kept couch, where lay the weak form, gathered the fervent in prayer, and appealed to God for help, for we all realized that he can and will aid where no earthly physician can. The elders applied the oil in the name of the Lord, as directed in James 5:14. They prayed that the Lord would restore the young sister to health, for they felt that the young pilgrim might be of some use in the Master's work. Then they prayed that her sins might all be forgiven. They had no doubt but that their earnest prayer would, in some manner, be answered, for to the Lord they had said, "Not our will, but thine, O Lord, be done." He who can see the end from the beginning, has his way of answering prayers, and those who have a spiritual insight into God's dealings in this world can see answers where the less spiritual cannot.

But in the room, on this occasion, the gentle showers of grace were coming down, and the spiritual natures were being refreshed. Hope was springing up in one soul after another. Good impressions were made upon the hearts, and more than one person present resolved from that hour to live a more devoted life. One act of kindness followed another, and no person thought of being anything else but just as good as his abilities and opportunities would permit. Smiles were seen playing over the face of the young sister. The gentle showers of grace, from even beyond the clouds, had reached her soul. Hope revived, the faith grew stronger, and she felt perfectly resigned to the will of the Great Being who had given her her form as well as her soul. She was back again in the Potter's hands, this time to be moulded either for the use in God's house upon the earth or for use in the great house beyond the stars. She

was not troubled. Why should she be! Who can deal more gently with the vessel than the potter who formed it, gave it its shape and fitted it for use? It was the soul, this time, to which the potter was giving special attention. It needed some finishing touches, and how important that these touches be given by one who is not only a moulder, but an artist as well.

But as I walked away from the sister's earthly home I wondered why more of the sick do not call for the elders to come and anoint them? There is so much in the anointing. "The prayer of faith shall save the sick." There are so many ways in which the sick may be saved. Even the life may be prolonged, for he who gave life can lengthen it. He who made the vessel can also renew the bonds of life. He one time added fifteen years to the life of a king. But at other times he permits the transplanting to take place early. I say he permits it, for he who made all things knows what is best for the plant as well as for the vessel that contains the plant.

And then we read, "The Lord shall raise him up." This gives hope. It strengthens the faith, and it is through the hope and faith that the Heavenly Physician can do most effectual work for the drooping spirit. As the raindrops from the clouds prolong the life of plants, so will the showers of grace, received into the soul, add strength to the outer as well as the inner life. "If he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." The best of all promises! If the tender plant must be transplanted, let it first be cleansed and every defect removed. If it is to remain upon the earth, it is only the better for the forgiveness. Then, why not call for the anointing! The hand of God is in it.

NEWS ITEMS

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

We were revived and enlightened during our July Revival meetings with Brother Mike Wray leading us through the scriptures. We enjoyed the visit of his family, also.

Shortly thereafter, we welcomed Brother Barry Boone into our midst on his former vows. We are pleased that his wife and two little ones feel free to worship with us.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

A NOTE OF THANKS

I want to thank everyone for the words of encouragement to Harold and I through his sickness and death.

Your visits, acts of kindness, cards, and gifts, above all the many prayers in our behalf.

We can only say thank you. God will richly bless you.

Sister Ruth Kleinhen

THANK YOU

After three hospitalizations spanning over three weeks, and two surgeries for a ruptured appendix and the resulting complications of a bowel obstruction, I am again home and hopefully, the Lord willing, on the path to recovery.

Times of convalescence can be trying, and yet they can be periods of enrichment, causing us to "push down our roots" and ponder "What really counts in life?"

When life "flows along like a song" it is easy to set our affections on temporal things that are so unstable and fleeting. Sometimes, in love, God "draws me aside to be tested and tried, but in the valley He restoreth my soul."

Again, I have been made to wonder how people face life's deep trials without knowing and experiencing the love of our Heavenly Father, the comfort and promises of His Word, and the prayerful, gracious support of His people.

Having already received nearly 100 cards, dozens of telephone calls from Michigan to Mississippi, California to Pennsylvania, flowers and a variety of gifts, food and assistance for the family, willing hands to help Dad gather in the crops, hospital visits and a mighty host of prayer warriors storming heaven on our behalf... need I say there wells up within me a deep sense of gratitude and an even deeper sense of indebtedness.

I keenly realize it is impossible for me to repay all your love and kindness, but on the behalf of my family and myself, I want to say "Thank you" from the bottom of my heart, and may God bless you as only He can.

Because the "love of Christ and His people constraineth me", I desire to more willingly and faithfully serve Him, His Church, and His people "that in all things He might have the preeminence." (Col. 1:18).

We love you all.

A grateful servant,
Brother Jim Meyers

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 1993

December 5 - Gethsemene - Matthew 26:36-46.

1. How did the meaning of "Gethsemene" match Christ's experience there?
2. Viewing it as a place of surrender to the will of the Father, what has been the outcome of our "visit to Gethsemene?"

December 12 - Betrayal and Arrest - Matthew 26:47-75.

1. What lessons can we learn from the life of Judas?
2. How did the physical distance from his Lord influence Peter's spiritual distance as the night wore on?

December 19 - Birth of Christ - Matthew 1:1-25, Matthew 2:1-15.

1. Ponder the relationship of: the Virgin Mary, the Divinity of Christ, and the "price of redemption" required by the Father.
2. Has Christ received the gift He desires and deserves from you?

December 26 - Trial, Crucifixion, Sealing the Tomb - Matthew 27:1-66.

1. Of those that stood around the cross, which most nearly reflects your response to the cross and the Lamb?
2. Why do people work so hard to avoid seeing and believing the truth? (verse 62-66)

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 1993

December 5 - A Convenient Season - Matt. 8:19-22, Luke 9:59-62, Acts 24:24-27.

1. How do the ingredients that comprise "a convenient season" differ in the eyes of God and the ways of man?
2. Could there be a more convenient season than this to yield your life to God?

December 12 - The Penitent Thief - Luke 23:38-47.

1. What realization brought this thief to seek mercy from the Saviour?
2. Have you come to this life-changing realization in your life?

December 19 - The Christmas Story - Luke 2:1-20, Matt. 2:1-11.

1. How is the virgin birth and the Divinity of Christ vital to salvation?
2. What gift does Jesus desire from you this season? Will it be His?

December 26 - God's People - Ex. 19:5, Deut. 14:1-2, Luke 1:13-17, Titus 2:11-14.

1. Who are the People of God?
2. How do God's people live and respond to God and other people?

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Manheim, PA 17645

(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 23

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

WONDERFUL PEACE

Far away in the depths of my spirit tonight,
Rolls a melody sweeter than psalm;
In celestial like strains it unceasingly falls
O'er my soul like an infinite calm.

What a treasure I have in this wonderful peace,
Buried deep in the heart of my soul;
So secure that no power can mine it away,
While the years of eternity roll.

I am resting tonight in this wonderful peace,
Resting sweetly in Jesus' control;
For I'm kept from all danger by night and by day,
And His glory is flooding my soul.

And me thinks when I rise to that City of peace,
Where the Author of peace I shall see,
That one strain of the song which the ransomed will sing,
In That Heavenly kingdom shall be: --

Ah! soul are you here without comfort or rest,
Marching down the rough pathway of time?
Make Jesus your friend ere the shadows grow dark;
Oh, accept this sweet peace so sublime.

- W. D. Cornell

THE PRINCE OF PEACE

Recently peace has been spreading around the world. It has been the hope of all ages that war could be eliminated. Now it seems a little closer to reality, if the world situation is not examined too closely. There seems to be less actual declared warfare than there has been for several decades. Those who have been former enemies, now are able to live in peaceful coexistence. There appears to be a greater effort towards cooperation.

The United Nations has become more active than it has been for many years. It has assumed a greater power in military as well as peace efforts. Various nations have been willing to allow the United Nations to assume some of their power. In times past, the United Nations has been perceived as an organization dedicated to finding ways of peace, but in the recent past has become a military power itself. Some have thought that if the United Nations were to become a stronger force in the world, it could bring about an era of peace and safety.

So with a veneer of peace covering this world, it would be assumed that peace was now in ascendancy. However, beneath that veneer there are many trouble spots in this world. There are some countries where open warfare is raging, whether as a civil war, a tribal war or an aggressive war aimed at another country. There is always the possibility that one of these "minor" conflicts could escalate into a major war involving other countries and peoples. There is no promise given that man will ever be able to solve the problem of warfare by himself. No matter how brilliant the minds and no matter how firm the hopes for peace, still the nature of man is aggressive and possessive, so sooner or later, all man's efforts toward peace will be defeated. As much as all would desire

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a reign of peace, more than fond hopes would be necessary to insure peace. The nature of man guarantees that peace will not last.

The only guarantee of peace is the Prince of Peace. Jesus has been given many titles and names, each expressing some facet of His being, both Heavenly and Earthly. At this time of the year, we often hear Him spoken of as the Prince of Peace. Somehow the sights and thoughts surrounding Christmas often emphasizes peace. The manger scene is pictured as a place of peace.

Jesus truly came as the Prince of Peace, but His mission was different than that of the United Nations or any other man-made organization dedicated to securing peace. He came to seek and to save that which was lost. Because of the nature that man has within, he can never secure peace on his own. The sinner is unable to live at peace. Without accepting Jesus Christ as the propitiation for his sin, a sinner cannot be at peace with God. There is only one way to God, that is through His Son, Jesus Christ. He is the Prince of Peace for He establishes peace with God for those who accept Him. Until a person has peace with God, he cannot have peace within himself. Without peace within, a man is never settled or secure. He cannot face the storms of life. With the peace of God within, he then has the needed strength to face whatever may come against him.

If a man does not have peace with God, nor within himself, there is no possibility that he can have peace with others. As long as man fights God and has no peace within he does not have the capacity of living peaceably with others. To live peaceably with others requires an ability that can come only through Jesus Christ. With His example and the direction of the Holy Spirit, a man can overcome his aggressive and possessive characteristics, so he cannot only coexist with others but actually promote a peace beyond the understanding of this world.

All mankind is at war with God. The usual way of ending a war is for one side to assemble such an awesome force that it can destroy the other side. The winning of a war is based on who has the greater numbers and the greater fire power. The warfare with God is ended in an entirely different way. God, with Whom men are at war, has sent the solution to that warfare. He has sacrificed His only Begotten Son, the Perfect Lamb of Calvary, as the means of ending men's warfare with Him. Through the gift of His Son, He has provided the way that men can cease to fight Him and be at peace with Him. He paid the price so men could win.

Human organizations cannot secure permanent peace, but Jesus can bring an even better peace into the heart of men. That peace will be so broad that it will involve having peace with God, peace within, and peace with others.

Have you accepted the Prince of Peace into your heart and life? Through your life there can be peace within, at least, your own little world. Your little world can be expanded to include other little worlds so peace can spread beyond yourself. This will bring the only peace that will last in this world of bloodshed and sorrow.

MCC

HOW COULD IT BE?

Call me Joseph ben Jacob. I was a simple man, a carpenter in a small village. You know my story – I was in love with a girl as beautiful inside as out, and trust me, her beauty was obvious.

She would come by at the end of my day with a fresh pot of drinking water. That was my signal that it was time to brush from my hair and beard the wood chips of a long day of planing and sawing. My hands were rough and calloused; my wrists sore from swinging the mallets.

Mary demurely turned away when I loosened the top of my apron and stood bare-chested at the water trough to wash. When I was again covered, I would smile and say, "Now, my sweet girl, something to drink."

There could not have been a happier man in all of Judah. That fresh, pure water Mary drew from a spring near her home cooled my throat and revived me. I would gather her tiny frame and hold her close, wondering how a man of such humble station could be blessed with such a treasure. She was my intended, my wife-to-be.

But then came the day of my tantrum. How would you have reacted? My first clue was that she had forgotten the water. I couldn't be angry about that. Though she had been faithful with that gift every day since our betrothal, I could just as easily have drawn my own water.

But also this day she did not turn her back to me when I washed. She merely sat with her eyes cast down. In a strange way she shone, despite her secret.

"What is it?" I asked her, cupping her face in my hands.

"You will not believe me," she said. "You will not understand."

Her words cut deep. How could she question the faith and sympathy of a man who loved her more than life itself? But she was right.

"I am with child," she whispered, and my blood ran cold. "An angel appeared to me," she said, but before she could continue I rose and threw a plank against the wall.

We had remained pure. I had LOVED HER TOO MUCH to defile or defraud her. Who had come between us? What evil one had ruined our lives, our love? I fought hatred, revulsion. I could not

picture it. There was no imagining that could include my beloved in sinful embrace.

My lips trembled and I shuddered. I turned my back to her, wondering how I could break our engagement without further humiliating her. Despite my anger and grief, I wanted to do what was best for her.

She pleaded with me to understand, but I could not look at her. "I have not sinned," she told me. "What is within me is of the Holy Ghost."

I was not moved. An angel had appeared to her, she said. The Scriptures told of such visits hundreds of years before. That didn't happen anymore. When she hurried away in tears, my heart was broken. I could not fathom a lie from her lips, but who could believe this?

I thought of the men in the village. I must see about an official putting-away of my espoused one, and I fought for self-control as I reminded myself that God no longer visited mankind through angels.

That night the angel of the Lord appeared to ME. "Fear not," he said. I confess I disobeyed.

He told me to take Mary as my wife because the child that was conceived in her was of the Holy Ghost. He told me of the impending birth of Jesus, THE CHRIST.

I stole away in the night and approached Mary's home. A candle burned near where she sat, as if she awaited me.

"Mary," I whispered, "forgive me. The angel appeared to me, too." She embraced me and forgave me, and thus began a journey that would forever change our lives and the lives of millions through the ages.

The rest is His story.

JOSEPH'S SONG

Michael Card

How could it be?
This baby in my arms
Sleeping now so peacefully
The Son of God, the angel said
How could it be?

Lord, I know He's not my own
Not of my flesh, not of my bone
Still Father let this baby be
The Son of my Love.

He looks so small
 His face and hands so fair
 And when He cries the sun just seems to disappear
 But when He laughs,
 It shines again.
 How could it be?

Chorus:

Father, show me where I fit into this plan of Yours.
 How can a man be father to the Son of God?
 Lord, for all my life I've been a simple carpenter.
 How can I raise a KING?
 How can I raise a KING?

HOW COULD IT BE?

O the wonder of it all!
 - A Princess -

GOD WITH US

Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Matthew 1:22-23, "Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is God with us."

If there is anything that we can be certain of it is the fact that when God speaks it will come to pass. Isaiah the prophet received the word of the Lord that a virgin would conceive and bear a son. This was not to be merely a young woman, as one perverted version reads, but a woman who never had a physical relationship with a man. Secondly, the child she was to bear was to be a manchild, a son. Today we have the means of telling the sex of a child before the actual birth. But only God can determine the sex of a child before it is conceived! In the third place, we find that they "shall call his name Immanuel." To our knowledge, Jesus Christ was never actually named Immanuel. Yet this prophecy did come to pass. For as Matthew informed us, this name "being interpreted is, God with us."

To understand the reality of God literally being with us in human form requires the acceptance of the truth of the Holy Trinity. Many groups accept Jesus Christ as the Son of God, (some relegate him to a son of God), but seldom do you hear Him addressed as God the Son. Our minds cannot fully comprehend what took place when the creator of Heaven and earth became a helpless babe in the

womb of Mary. But of one thing we can be certain. She was not the Mother of God, as some teach. True the babe in her womb was God the Son. But His existence did not originate at the time of Mary's conception.

Jesus Christ was God with us in love. Those who teach that the God of the Old Testament was a God of judgement and the God of the New Testament is a God of love are in error. We will speak more of judgement later, but God remains the same throughout the Bible. Yet in the person of Jesus Christ true love came to earth in human form. He showed love to those who were despised by society and even the religious leaders of that day. He lived love, taught love and died with love. All His life He demonstrated what true love was by His actions. He taught that we must love one another, even those who do not love us. His death upon the cross of Calvary was His greatest show of love. The only sinless man to walk upon earth died for the sins of the world. Yes, He loved YOU and He loved ME enough to die for OUR sins.

Jesus Christ was God with us in power. When He appeared on earth it was not the first time anyone had performed miracles. There are several recorded miracles in the Old Testament performed by a man. But it was this same God who gave them the power to perform their miracles. Now He showed His power while in the body of flesh and blood. Those who teach that Jesus Christ performed His miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit are only partially correct. In Colossians 2:9 we read, "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." While we reject the "Jesus Only" doctrine, in a way we cannot fully fathom how God the Father and God the Holy Spirit walked on earth in the flesh in the person of God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ was God with us in authority. God spoke through the Old Testament prophets and judges to tell the people what He expected of them. Now He spoke while in the flesh. He told us, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill." And that is exactly what He did! God's chosen people of the Old Testament, Israel, were a physical as well as a spiritual nation. The chosen people of God today, the Church, is a spiritual nation made up of individuals of all races, colors and nationalities. With the authority of God, He gave us the rules for a new Kingdom. It is easier to call Jesus Christ, our Master and our Lord, than to follow His teachings in our every day lives. Just as God revealed His Holy will to the Old Testament writers. We cannot escape the authority of Jesus Christ by saying we follow Him and not the New Testament writers!

Jesus Christ was God with us in judgement. While the final judgement of Jesus Christ is in the future, He did judge while on earth and still does today. He never compromised with sin and false

religion. My friend, which will you choose? The love of God or the judgement of God? We believe the Bible makes it clear that it is your choice. He shed His blood in love but will allow you to go to Hell in judgement if that is your choice.

Brother James M. Hite
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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

An Explosion of Power

We see the manifestation of great power on the earth today and the world of Science tells of a great power that caused a cosmic explosion and was the beginning of life as we know it on earth. I call this "mythological power." But the birth of Jesus Christ was the ultimate in a powerful event. This birth divided history. No life has had the impact on our world and on history the way Jesus of Nazareth has. His shadow lies across the landscape of our world today and His presence is still among us through His Holy Spirit. He is alive! This is the great exclamation of the Christian gospel.

It is interesting to me that the earliest account of the birth of Jesus is not from the Gospels but from the writing of the Apostle Paul. In Galatians, he wrote: "But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."

The birth story as related in Luke is probably the most beautiful account in the Bible. It is so human, so spiritually perceptive and is written with such beautiful, literary artistry.

Preexisting power: John, in his writing, goes back into eternity to the preexistence of Christ. He existed before He became a historical person. He was the agent of the creation of this universe... "All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made." The incarnation of God coming down to us and becoming enfleshed is exciting and powerful.

Virgin birth power: The fact that Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit and was virgin born is the affirmation of His divinity and uniqueness. This fact must be believed and should be emphasized in our witness of Him today. We cannot minimize its importance in our claim that He is the Only Begotten Son of God.

Human power: Jesus was born of a woman. This was a real birth but only possible through the power of God. Mary knew pain in childbirth. The Babe was real and human. He needed shelter and clothing and he cried and laughed and felt all of the needs of any other human on earth. In fact, Jesus was wrapped in swaddling

clothes and these were made of coarsely woven wool. They were of the earth, most earthly! His humanness was a sign and He was humanly divine.

Historical power: Jesus was born into earthly history. We can identify where He was born. No, He wasn't born in Heaven or in some ethereal realm. He was born in Bethlehem, the city of David. Christianity is a historical religion and Jesus is the basis of that history. His power came not in jarring the earth with His might but He speaks, rather, in quiet ways.

God's radical action power: God entered our world in this strange, new way in Christ. He "clothed Himself in our flesh" and walked among us. God took the world seriously and He knew how lost, sick and alienated it was. God took Himself seriously... He knew that only He could redeem men and women and save the world.

Yes, Jesus was human. He grew normally. People may deny the humanity of Jesus but to do so corrupts the Word and negates His power. He grew and waxed strong... and in favor with man and God.

He was also to grow up motivated by love. Our hearts are typically muddled and our motives are rarely pure... often mixed. But not so with Jesus. From His birth, His heart was pure, and His motives were crystal clear. His love was unsparing. He was never to stop loving... from His birth, his life, his death and beyond. He loves the socially ostracized and the outcast. He loves the rejects and discards of society. He loves those in whom no one sees worth. In fact, He loves those who do not love themselves. It was only after Jesus' birth that the love of God could be defined. God was no longer faceless, merciless. The heart of the universe became love.

This Baby was never to have a crown, a scepter or throne on this Earth. Rather, He picked up a towel and basin of water and washed and dried the dirty feet of His disciples. He was born to be a servant and became the Servant of servants.

These deeds were to show the great authority and power in the words that He would speak. People would be "astonished at His teaching." He did not quote the authorities... He was the authority. His judgment exercised light over darkness, truth over falsehood and love over hatred.

Jesus was sinless. There were no dark shadows beneath His eyes, no haunting memories, no wounds inflicted by an angry and outraged conscience. There were no shadows of guilt that would dog His footsteps over the years. Was it because He wasn't tempted? No. He was. Could He have sinned? Yes. But He didn't... and He won... for us.

So, Jesus was human and He was divine. As the church, we must defend this fact. We have talked of his birth, His humanity and His divinity. He is "the I AM"... "the bread of life"... "the light of the

world"... "the door"... "the resurrection and the life"... "the way, and the truth and the life." There is NO OTHER bread, light, door, resurrection or way. There is only Jesus... the ultimate explosion of power.

Brother Len Wertz

WHAT IS LOVE???

It seems in the day that we live, there is much confusion over the little four letter word, "LOVE." Sometimes it is misused instead of another, similar word, "lust." The word, "lust" not only pertains to sexual desires, but in a broader sense it is an attitude of "what can I get for MYSELF out of anyone or anything else." THIS IS NOT LOVE! Early English translators used the words, "love" and "charity" somewhat interchangeably. That was good, since most of us understand that charity has to do with what we will give rather than what we get. Unfortunately, many people never realize the difference between love and lust. They try to build relationships, even marriages, on lust instead of love and the results are disastrous. Lust wears out, grows old and dissatisfied, but love never dies!

Then there are those who don't know the difference between love and sentimentality. Therefore they let their children or grandchildren do whatever they want to because "they love them." THIS IS NOT LOVE! If we want to be sentimental toward something let's get a pet rabbit or guinea pig, and show our children true love. Love is a deep concern for someone else's well being in the long run, not just short lived pleasures. As parents we see the wisdom of forbidding our children to play with matches even though it may be great fun for the moment. It has terrible consequences in the end. Therefore we, as a society, need to see the necessity of, with love, correcting our children while there is hope, instead of thinking that the army or prison should do it when he's eighteen.

Let me illustrate it this way. Suppose you and I were strolling beside the Niagara River. Let's say I enjoy going for a swim now and then. Imagine, as we walked along, part of the bank gave way and into the river I fall. Is it LOVE if you walk away, hoping somehow I might get out before the Falls? Or is it love for you to do everything in your power to get me out, even if I assure you "I'm enjoying the swim?"

Many times sincere Christians are accused of not showing love for those that do not share their views of right and wrong. Sometimes this may be merited, but often this accusation comes when we try to warn others about the "FALLS" that are ahead, the awful consequences of not repenting of our sin and seeking God's forgiveness through Jesus. Is it love if we shut our mouths and watch the masses stroll happily into Hell? Sin is sin. "The wages of sin is

death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 6:23)

Are you living in sin? What is ahead of you is far worse than Niagara Falls. Won't you grab the rope? Turn away from your sins and trust in Jesus to save you. Confess your sins to God in prayer and seek to obey Him in all things. Then you'll know true LOVE.

C. R. Hess
RD #1
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SIXTY YEARS AGO

December 1, 1933

LOST

T. C. Ecker

(Heb. 2:3) "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation;..."

When we look into this subject of so great importance our best efforts fall far below just demands of the theme. Nothing can be saved which has never been lost, or is in danger of being lost. If the human family would realize their lost condition, eternally lost before it is forever too late. It is plain that man's salvation is the subject of the text. But if man is lost and if lost in what sense is he lost? We read in Matt. 18:11, "For the son of man came to save that which was lost." It is man's life that is lost natural or bodily life, but is man's life lost? It is, for death has passed upon all men the sentence of bodily death. It is appointed unto man once to die; dust thou art and unto dust shall thou return. If any suppose the death of the body to be a small thing let such a one go to a well filled graveyard and pass one hour in serious meditation in this silent city of the dead. Let him think of the tears that have fallen there, of the sighs of anguish that have reluctantly escaped from broken hearts, let him think of the innocent beauty and loveliness that lie buried there, of the hopes and joys that have been driven from the heart by the hand of the destroyer, and then let him ask himself if the wages of sin is a thing of small account.

Death here writes his name anew, every passing season in the fresh mounds raised above the dead, and does not the voice of reason whisper into the ear of every passerby the solemn words, "this place is waiting for you."

Now the apostle says, it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He shall appear we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Another apostle writing on the same subject says, He shall change our vile bodies that they may be fashioned like unto His glorious body." Does this not show that this salvation is a great one, but I have as yet but touched the hem of the garment, and indeed in our low state of mental power here we are barely able with the highest and broadest reason of thoughts to lay hold of more than the hem of the salvation garment. Heaven is His throne and earth is His footstool. We have been of the body lost by sin, we turn to the spiritual life lost by sin. Paul says to be carnally minded is death; now what is it to be carnally minded? Paul answers us in a general way that it is enmity against God. Those who are carnal minded cannot love God, nor take pleasure in His service. The spiritual life is lost by sin. Man's life is perverted, it is turned from the Lord and his neighbor, and directed to self and the world.

Now let us turn to the Lord's words in Luke 10:25-28. A certain lawyer asked the question, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? Jesus said unto him, what is written in the law? How readest thou? He answering said, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy strength and with all thy mind, and thy neighbor as thyself. Jesus said unto him thou hast answered right, this do and thou shalt live.

Does not this look like the key to salvation? Does it not open the door to a view of eternal life and blessedness? Our Lord says on these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. When one gives his heart to God in love like this I think he is in a saved state, and is it not a great salvation and perfect love of that which is good?

The Lord only can change man from darkness to light and from death to life. He saves man by His word and Holy Spirit, He knocks at everyone's heart, if he will open the door He will enter in and dwell with him, to give him eternal life.

THE STEPS OF A GOOD MAN ARE ORDERED BY THE LORD

Psalm 37:23

Though God has declared that the way of man is not in himself, and it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps, still He has not left us without encouragement. He has given us the assurance that if we acknowledge Him in all our ways, He will "direct our paths." We may now notice three grounds of encouragement. First, God is ABLE to direct our paths. His understanding is infinite. He sees the end from the beginning, and knows what is best upon the whole and in the end.

"Since all the downward tracks of time
 His watchful eye surveys,
 Oh who so wise to choose our lots,
 And regulate our ways?"

Secondly, God is WILLING to direct our paths. He is so condescending as to bestow upon us His counsels and His care. There is something wonderful in this, and we can say with David, "Lord, what is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" We can say with Job, "What is man that thou shouldest magnify him, and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?" Yet so it is. The Lord careth for us. When we come to the CROSS, and when we reflect upon what God HAS DONE THERE, there is nothing incredible in this assurance, for "He that spared not His Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him freely give us all things?"

Thirdly, God has ENGAGED to direct our paths. He has said, "The meek will he guide in judgment, the meek will he teach his way." He says, through Isaiah, "I will bring the blind by a way that they know not. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them." These are the true sayings of God, and as these promises are "exceedingly great and precious," so they are all "yea and amen in Christ Jesus, to the glory of God by us." Talking and doing may be different things with men, but they are not so with God. "Heaven and earth may pass away," and will pass away, "but not a word shall fail of all that the Lord hath spoken." Let us endeavour to realize this, and to "commit our way unto the Lord, trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass," or render the failure a blessing. Thus our "soul shall dwell at ease." Thus we shall "live in guilt from the fear of evil." "He will keep our mind in perfect peace, being stayed on God." What can we want more than to be able to say, as we may say, "This God is our God forever and ever? He will be our guide even unto death."

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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 Newmanstown, PA 17073

GEMS OF THOUGHT

1. There is an old saying, that money is not the key to happiness, but if you have enough money, you can have a key made.
2. Children certainly brighten up a home. Whoever saw a child turn off a light?
3. A neighbor will stand at your door talking for twenty minutes because they do not have time to come in.

4. Nothing makes you feel older than to discover that your children are studying in history what you studied in current events.
5. The way some homes are built, the only thing that will last thirty years is the mortgage.
6. Nothing has done more for home cooking than the taste of vending machine food.
7. In a restaurant kitchen this sign appeared, "Push the soup of the day, it's the day before yesterday's."
8. People who live in glass houses shouldn't do much of anything.
9. Any time a child can be seen but not heard, it's a shame to waken him.
10. No man was ever wise by chance.
11. When you betray some one else you betray yourself.
12. An error does not become a mistake until you refuse to correct it.
13. Mealtime is when youngsters sit down to continue eating.
14. What people consider the high cost of living is really the cost of high living.
15. Always laugh at yourself before others do.
16. Habit, if not resisted, soon becomes a necessity.
17. Ponder the path of thy feet and let all thy ways be established.
18. Can a man take fire in his bosom and not be burned?
19. When pride cometh, then cometh shame, but with the lowly there is wisdom.

Compiled by Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
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OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

J. H. Moore

Years ago a blind man came to our meetinghouse to conduct a singing class. He was an expert in music and knew how to teach it. His books were made for the blind. By passing his fingers over the raised lines he could read readily. He needed no light to read by. The first evening the lamps in the meetinghouse gave very poor light, so much so that most people could not see to read. The blind teacher did not know the difference. He called out the number of the hymn and proceeded to sing. As the people could not see well but few of them helped to sing. A preacher in the congregation then rose and remarked that the blind man was more fortunate than most people, for he could read whether there was any light or not. Everybody smiled. The blind man said he never thought of it in that way before. Possibly more of us might take that view of our misfortunes.

OBITUARIES**HAROLD KLEINHEN**

Bro. Harold T. Kleinhnen, the son of John and Ruby Kleinhnen, was born on January 28, 1921 near Miller City, Ohio and passed away on August 28, 1993 at the Bryan Community Hospital following an extended illness at the age of 72 years, 7 months.

On September 1, 1961 he was united in marriage to Ruth St. John who survives. He was a member of the Pleasant Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church of Montpelier, Ohio. Harold was employed by the Washington Township Trustees in the Highway department for more than thirty-seven years.

Surviving are his wife, Ruth; stepmother, Grace Kleinhnen, Bryan, Ohio; a brother, Robert, Bryan, Ohio; a sister, Mary Baker, Ney, Ohio and three half sisters, Mrs. Webb (Janice) Crocker, Bryan, Ohio; Mrs. George (Joyce) Bair, Fort Wayne, Indiana and Joan Studerbaker, Hicksville, Ohio, along with a number of nieces and nephews and countless friends.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Marvel Clinker and Hazel Moog.

Funeral services were on September 1, 1993 with ministers H. Edward Johnson and Charles Leatherman officiating. Interment in Fountain Grove Cemetery, West Unity, Ohio.

LELAH BELLE SOUDER

Sister Lelah Belle Souder, daughter of Sage and Ada (Webb) Whitman was born May 20, 1920.

After a siege of cancer, she passed away in her home on November 6, 1993 at the age of 73 years, 5 months and 16 days.

She was united in marriage to Kenneth Souder on February 22, 1941 in Fostoria, Ohio, who preceded her in death on December 4, 1991. Also preceding her in death was a sister, Luluvene Yates, in 1989.

She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Robert (Cheryl) Biddle, Wadsworth, Ohio and Mrs. Kirk (Lynn) Rogers, Lewisville, Texas; one sister, Mrs. Fern Baeder, Cleveland, Ohio; one brother, Clare Whitman, Fostoria, Ohio and three grandchildren besides neighbors and friends.

On May 28, 1977 she became a member of the West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church. She was so faithful to her Lord and a great influence on the church. She will be greatly missed. The family wish to thank all who loved and cared for her during her illness.

Funeral services were held November 9, 1993 with ministers H. Edward Johnson, Charles Leatherman and Fred Johnson. Burial in the Fountain Cemetery, Fostoria, Ohio.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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DECEMBER 15, 1993

NO. 24

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

ANOTHER YEAR IS DAWNING

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.

Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face.

Another year of service,
Of witness for Thy love;
Another year of training
For holier work above.

Another year of dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven,
Another year for Thee!

- Frances R. Havergal

TAKING STOCK

As the old year ends and the new year begins, it is the traditional time to take inventory. Storeowners take stock of what is on their shelves. Many have sales so they will not have to count the stock and report it as part of their inventory. When this difficult and detailed job is finished, the storeowner has a better idea of what he has on hand. He will find that there were some items that did not sell as well as anticipated, while others sold better than expected. From this inventory he can form a better idea of what items he will stock for the new year and what items he will discount so he can get rid of them quickly. Ideally, he does not want to have unpopular or obsolete items cluttering up his space. He wants to have the items that his customers are interested in.

There are many parallels between the storekeeper's inventory and the Christian's inventory of his Spiritual life. The Christian may inventory his life any time during the year. The oftener, the better. To let problems build, even over a few weeks, will allow the enemy to get a dangerous foothold. A Spiritual problem let go will grow, fester and become more serious. The more serious it becomes, the less likely any action will be taken to correct it. As it grows even more serious, there is even less desire to do anything about it. It may seem to become overwhelming so less effort will be made to overcome it.

The New Year's season is the traditional time to take a personal inventory and to make resolutions to repair old mistakes and to avoid new ones. Resolutions are often made with little intention of keeping them. It is almost an effort in planned futility, but a few are kept and lives are improved.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

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What will improve the possibility that resolutions will be kept? First, the resolutions must be personal. They must be the resolutions that you know that you need to make. Second, these resolutions must be formed after serious self-examination. There needs to be a detailed examination of your life. These resolutions cannot be those suggested by others but must be the result of truthful and Spiritual self-examination. Third, the resolutions, if truly Spiritual and beneficial, must be carried out through God's strength. There must be a willingness to depend upon the Holy Spirit to lead and direct in the keeping of these promises. These resolutions must be more than words spoken to be like everyone else at this time of the year. They must be your resolutions made to improve your life and you must be serious about fulfilling them.

Self-examination is not to be done just prior to a Lovefeast. Nor is self-examination to be done, only, at New Years, when making resolutions. It is needed in the Christian life, often. We must look into our lives to find the relationship between our activities and beliefs and God's expectations of us. Do our lives measure up to His standard for us?

At this time of the year, there is interest in recounting the events of the past year. This looking back is instructive and can be helpful in avoiding similar pitfalls in the future. History is a wonderful instructor. A knowledge of history can help us avoid repeating the mistakes of the past. We can be entertained and strengthened by understanding the struggles and situations of those who lived before us and pioneered the way for us. We can be emboldened to carry on with the same fortitude and courage. There is a recounting of the deeds of the heroes of the faith in Hebrews 11, so those who read might also be inspired to serve God.

As instructive and entertaining as History is, it has limitations. We can become too encumbered with the problems of the past and forget the battles of today or what is necessary for the future. At New Years, although we may look back to catch a glimpse of what has gone before, we must surely go into the New Year and face that much of our future. History may be a good instructor, but history cannot live the future. We must build our own history by what we do each day and year.

It is important as we move into this new year that we take care of the troubles and problems that have bothered us during the old year. We must enter the New Year ready to go forth with a greater determination to serve God, our fellow man and to give our lives to Him. We need to have right balance in our lives. We need to look back and be inspired by the past, but we must also move into the future and fight our daily battles.

Are you ready for this New Year? Can you improve upon your life, so God will get greater glory and praise from your living? Take stock, now, and move ahead in God's strength.

MCC

IF VOWS WERE KEPT

If Sunday loafers would keep their vows to attend church regularly, we would have to tear down our churches and build larger.

If married people would keep their vows to be kind to each other, divorce courts would go out of business, and homes would be heavenly.

If poison-tongued slanderers would keep their vows to quit their meanness, character-assassins would become friendly boosters.

If spend-thrifts would keep their vows to live within their income and save a little, savings banks would burst, and poor houses would be empty.

If criminals, on the first discovery that crime doesn't pay, would keep their vows to go straight, locksmiths would go bankrupt, and the only occupants of jails, would be rats and bats.

If all good resolutions, with which hell is reputed to be paved, were kept, earth itself would be a paradise.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

ON OUR WAY

We are all on our way to somewhere! If we believe in Jesus Christ, we are on our way to be eternally with the Lord. As a part of His Church, we are like passengers on an airplane with our seat belts in place and ready for take off. Suddenly the plane starts to move toward the runway and the engines roar and we begin to move with increasing speed. At just the right speed, the moment of take-off arrives and we leave the ground rising into the air.

Yes, the world seems to be moving faster and faster and the developments in politics, banking, morality, family values and in all aspects of life seem negative and anti-God. But this means that the Church is also moving faster and faster toward her "take-off" to be with the Lord. Romans 13:11-12 reminds us that the time is here to awake out of sleep... because our salvation is nearer than we think.

"EL AL", the Israeli airline means "toward heaven." When an airplane leaves the ground the engines have the highest priority. They have to be in perfect working order and cannot fail. It is different with we Christians. What is driving us still moves us in an horizontal sphere toward heaven. Because Jesus ascended into heaven, we will also go there.

The love of God is the "engine" which drove Jesus to leave the glory of Heaven and come to earth to make Himself of no reputation and take on the form of a servant and give His life on Calvary's cross for us. He will soon come to take us to be with Him because of that great love.

What are some of the signs that show us that we are on our way upward in a short time? First, the European economic system is forming. They are talking about one central bank and one currency. Another important event is the collapse of Communism...from Berlin to Korea, from Vietnam to Cuba. The collapse of the Soviet Union is an unprecedented challenge to us in the Western World. The United States seems to have reached her limit and is in moral and economic trouble. A united Germany is significant and prophetic. The anti-Christian empire is rising with great speed and it appears that much of the world is ready to submit to it.

Even now, the eyes of the world are turned toward Israel. There seems to be a fatal, false peace appearing on the horizon there. The Word tells us that Israel will be seduced and will say "peace, when there is no peace."

Before the Antichrist can reveal himself, all of these events are to take place. A false peace will be attained at the cost of truth and men will be evil continually.

Those whose hearts and minds are set on material things are not looking for the "take-off" today. Even Christians seem to be lulled to sleep by a false sense of security. There is no holiness or true unity with the Savior and the plane is about ready to leave.

If Jesus is not Lord of your life, you will be found standing...earth-bound at His sudden return. If you have evil thoughts in your heart, if you are full of grudges, if you are caught up in materialism and a love for money... then you may not be "on your way."

May we be on board...on our way...and looking for His coming... that we might enjoy our flight to the Celestial City.

Brother Len Wertz

NO NEW THING UNDER THE SUN

Ecclesiastes 1:9, "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun."

As we read these words of "the preacher" our first reaction may be that his observation is entirely wrong. In the last one hundred years the advances in technology and inventions stagger the mind. Yet the human heart remains the same. We find the reality of what "the preacher" was speaking of in symbolic form in the latter part of chapter 4 of Genesis.

"And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord,..." Cain is symbolic of those who use earthly methods to please a heavenly God. In verse 3 of this chapter we find that "Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord." Cain was probably very sincere in bringing his offering. In his mind he probably thought he was even obedient. Yet this offering which is symbolic of human effort was not acceptable to God.

"And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch." Enoch is symbolic of large organizations and worldly politics. The important thing to remember is that Cain built the city. Remember that Cain "went out from the presence of the Lord." It is not wrong to have a large fellowship. But when we use the ways of the world to do so we have gone the way of Cain. More often than not those who have large gatherings are involved in one degree or another in worldly politics. The time may come when it will cost us something to worship God in the way we deem to be right. Even now the government is interfering in religion in small ways right in America, the land of freedom. From the beginning it was not God's desire that Israel have a king, worldly politics, but at the people's insistence God allowed it. God established government and He established the Church. It was never His desire for the two to mix. Like Israel of old, the earthly church of today demands a king besides her heavenly King, the Lord Jesus Christ. She does not desire that government tell her what to do but she wants to control government.

"And Lamech took unto him two wives:..." A large portion of the earthly church of today will tell you that it is not wrong to remarry under certain circumstances (and the reasons for doing so seem to be growing by the day). Lamech is symbolic of such thinking. The only reason the Bible gives to remarry in the sight of God is if an individual's mate is no longer living.

"And Adah bare Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and of such as have cattle." Jabal is symbolic of those who put their trust in earthly possessions. Have not most of us fallen into this trap in one degree or another? It is not wrong to have a nice home and we can not live without some type of income. We must each search our hearts to see if we are true to Christ's command in Matthew 6:31-33. "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

"And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ." Those who use musical instruments

in their worship services many times are very sincere. Jubal is symbolic of this group which constitutes the vast majority of Christendom. Most that use musical instruments in their service also have special singing. We do not judge the sincerity of those who perform in this manner. But God does not desire a performance, He desires worship from the heart. We are convinced that such "offerings" to God are in the same category as Cain's fruit of the ground. Likewise, in most services the musical instruments become the focus of attention in place of the voice of the congregation singing praises to God.

"And Zillah, she also bare Tubalcain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron:..." We find Tubalcain to be symbolic of the truth of God's Word. The evolutionist will try to tell you that man started out in a "Stone age." Many church members have been deceived by the lie of evolution and tried to give it dignity by renaming it theistic evolution.

"And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, harken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt." Here Lamech is symbolic of revenge and violence. Violence is a way of life today. Children carry guns to school. Almost every day a murder is reported in the newspaper no matter where you live. In the midst of this earthly churches support television, the cause of much violence according to secular sources, and have relinquished our Lord's teaching on nonresistance.

Yes, in the human heart there is truly no new thing under the sun. But the Lord Jesus Christ can cleanse the heart with His own precious blood. He can make us a new creature in Him. He can take away rebellion and our selfishness will if we allow Him to. In this new year let us strive to seek a new way to worship Him better each new day until He returns and makes all things new.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

FULL OF GRACE

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) FULL OF GRACE and truth." John 1:14.

The Lord Jesus Christ was (and is) full of divine influence, which in the scriptures is so often called grace, because it flows from the favor of God. As He Himself said to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for thee." "Most gladly, therefore," said the apostle, "will I glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me; for when I am

weak then am I strong." Now of this grace ALL His disciples are partakers. If we lived with the holiest of His people we would not find them full of grace. We would discover many deficiencies in their principles, their affections, as well as their actions. But Christ was FILLED with the Holy Ghost. He had every excellence, and every excellence in its perfection. Grace was poured into His lips, His ears, His eyes, into His very life, into all that He said, into all that He did and suffered, and into all that He enjoyed. He has this grace, which filled Him, not only as a man for Himself, but as a Mediator for us, that from His fullness we might all "receive, and grace for grace." But grace often signifies kindness, benevolence, and generosity, and was He not full of all this? Hence we read that He had compassion on the multitude, and fed them. Did He not, with a voice breathing the softness and gentleness of His own loving heart, say, "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest;" and "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out;" and to the woman that was a sinner, "Thy sins are forgiven thee;" and to the poor, suffering thief, who said, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy Kingdom," He instantly said, "This day thou shalt be with me in paradise." Yes blessings on His dear name!

He is FULL OF GRACE!

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

SIXTY YEARS AGO

December 15, 1933

"PHILOSOPHY"

B. F. Masterson

Cruden defines the word "philosophy", "The love of wisdom." The word occurs but once in the Bible, where Paul warned the Colossians to beware lest any man spoil them through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world and not after Christ. (Col. 2:8)

I am impressed with Paul's words in the first verse, "For I would that ye know what great conflict I have for you." The inference is that he was agonizing at a throne of grace in behalf of the Colossian brethren, showing his deep concern for their spiritual welfare, "A faithful shepherd will watch over his flock, as they that must give account." (Heb. 13:17).

He knew their good order or church government and the steadfastness of their faith in Christ, but he also knew the opposition they had to meet, which was not of a physical nature but of an intellectual character, men of worldly education, with enticing or persuasive words and so called philosophical reasoning. He admonished them "to be united in love," for in union there is strength "and that they may possess all the riches of the full assurance of understanding to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God and of Christ." And he wants them to know that worldly philosophy is not founded on the true wisdom which pertains to eternal salvation of man, but in Christ's philosophy are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Col. 2:2-3).

And unless they possess this knowledge and wisdom and are rooted and are built up and established in the faith as they have been taught, those pagan philosophers with their worldly wisdom and artful deception will rob them of their rich treasures in Christ, "For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." Paul wants them to know that in contrast to man's philosophy, Christ is the embodiment of all wisdom, and in Him only is man complete.

If philosophy is the love for wisdom, then Christ stands at the head of philosophers in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, and the Christian is a philosopher, for the simple reason that he is a disciple of Christ, and his conduct will testify to the truth of it. That wisdom is from above, which is first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy, and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. (James 3:17).

Yes, brethren, we are philosophers of the school of Christ. "If we walk in Him, who is the power and wisdom of God." Fifty years ago when one sustained his position by the Bible, that was sufficient to settle a dispute, but not so now. Why is the Bible not held in as high repute as it was then? Is it because of the advancement of higher education? Because man's philosophy does not coincide with the Bible?

The world's philosophy would have it that man descended from monkey, the Bible says, God made man. Which is the most plausible according to nature, that if a monkey left to himself would develop to a human; or that if a person was left to himself without any education or culture whatever, would deteriorate into a monkey? The latter is far more reasonable, yet both are false positions, for every species of animal is after its kind.

Philosophy also claims that from the fossils of animals that had been found embedded in rock which took millions of years for the rock to form, consequently the world has existed million of years instead of six thousand years as the Bible has it. Take it for granted that the fossil story is correct. It only proves the existence of the eternal Godhead. The Bible says, "In the beginning God created the

heavens and the earth." There is a difference in the expression, in the beginning, and from the beginning. In the beginning, points back into the eternal past. No human mind can trace the eternal past, no telling how many worlds God (who is eternal) has created and destroyed before He created this earth. This earth was without form and void, it may have been the ruins of another destroyed world, destruction does not necessarily mean annihilation. God is the highest thought possible, and "in the beginning," leads one to that thought – but not back of it.

So as to what was created out of that which was without form and void, was in the beginning. Its foundation took place "from the beginning," and as to what took place in the beginning, one guess is as good as another.

Is it not remarkable that a fossil of a human body has never been found, neither has the connecting link of the monkey and man been discovered. Just such speculations is what Paul was aiming at. He met up with philosophers at Athens who called him a babblers.

I do not believe that Paul meant to condemn the true sciences but vain speculations in opposition to Bible teaching and the time wasted in searching after knowledge in which there was no real benefit.

In comparison of the wisdom of God to the wisdom of man or of the world, he declared that the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. Isaiah said, "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. (Isa. 55:9).

Christ's philosophy is so far superior to the philosophy of the world. The knowledge and wisdom of this world will fail, it will vanish, but the knowledge and revelation of God through Christ will never fail, but will continue to unfold the mysteries of God throughout eternity.

Knowledge puffeth up, (worldly philosophy). Charity edifieth (Christ philosophy).

It is remarkable that Christ was not persecuted by the common people only when influenced by the higher ups, by their leaders. When left alone they heard Him gladly. If any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know." (I Cor. 8:2).

Humility and simplicity is a qualification for admission into Christ's school of philosophy, "For it casts down imagination and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God." (II Cor. 10:5).

For this cause, "not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called."

I wonder if our public school system is not out of gear, that atheism shows itself, and a two years' college course is introduced in connection with the high school, as if the child would have to be equipped with a higher or college education to make a success in life. If so then the public schools should be kept clean from atheistic instructors. Is not the supply of collegiates already far greater than the demand? Having no white collar employment many will resort to all manner of trickishness and criminal acts, living on the spoils of innocent victims. This illustrates, in our ecclesiastical sense what Paul meant when he said, "Beware lest any man spoil you (rob) through philosophy and vain deceit. After the tradition (teaching) of men, after the rudiments of the world and not after Christ's." (philosophy).

Where were these modernistic ideas hatched, from whence are they, that made such an inroad into the churches and robbed the simple faithful members of their faith in the Bible, in the divinity of Christ, in the simplicity of a Christian life, in the substitutionary death of Christ which is the Christ philosophy? It certainly comes from the evil one, hatched out in the universities and from there it finds its way to the pulpit.

Some make the plea that they did not believe in the substitutionary death of Jesus because it was contrary to their sense of justice. If the gospel of Christ was based on justice, it would fail to be good news. It would place us all under the law as transgressors and death would be the penalty instead of grace and mercy and eternal life. "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

If Paul were here today he would condemn such philosophy the same as he did the pagan philosophy in his day.

GEMS FOR THOUGHT

1. Ask God's blessing on your work, but don't ask Him to do it for you.
2. The modern youth would rather follow in his dad's tire tracks, than in his footsteps.
3. If you want to make your money last, you have to make it first.
4. Some people have the right aim in life, but they never pull the trigger.
5. There is a lesson to be learned from the weather, despite constant criticism, it just keeps doing its own thing.
6. Youth is a gift of nature. Age is a work of art.

7. Horse sense naturally dwells in a stable mind.
8. Better to ask twice than to go wrong once.
9. Growing old is easy. The hard part is growing up.
10. Instead of complaining because you do not have all you want, be thankful you do not get all you deserve.
11. A little learning is a dangerous thing. None at all is fatal.
12. It is better to be patient on the road than a patient in the hospital.
13. The secret of financial success is to spend what's left, instead of saving what's left over after spending.
14. When alone, we have our thoughts to watch, when in family, our tempers; when in society, our tongues.
15. Anyone putting a child through college these days knows why it is called "Higher education."
16. Spread happiness where you go, not WHEN you go.
17. Just about the time you think you can make both ends meet, somebody moves the ends.
18. Poor health is often caused not by what we eat, but by what's eating us.
19. Good thoughts bear good fruit, but bad thoughts bear bad fruit... and man is his own orchard tender.
20. Most of us want to forgive and forget: we just do not want the other person to forget what we forgave.
21. Too many people marry for better or for worse, but not for good.
22. Be careful when you live it up that you don't have to live it down.
23. To pick the fruit, you have to go out on a limb.
24. You can preach a better sermon with your life than you can with your lips.
25. Blunt words often have sharp edges.

Compiled by Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44718

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

The Seed We Are Sowing

J. H. Moore

Some time in the eighties a man, interested in bee culture, drove along the road, in a certain section of Illinois, and scattered sweet clover seed as he went. He threw out small quantities of seed, first on one side of the road and then on the other. The seed grew, the plant spread, and now, in midsummer, the roads for miles and miles in every direction, are lined with the sweet clover. Most farmers say the plant is a nuisance, and that it is spreading to their fields. A few people see some good in it, especially the bee men and those who permit their cattle to graze by the roadside. But the sweet clover is there, and it is there to stay, all because some man scattered a small amount of seed, here and there, as he passed along.

Well, how about the seed that we purpose sowing as we journey down through life's lane? We are told that "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Then, on the other hand, we sow for others to reap. One generation sows the seed that may be reaped by the next generation. Parents sow seed for their children to reap, and one neighbor sows seed that must, sooner or later, be reaped by the whole neighborhood.

We are reminded of a lady who is prominent in wealthy and fashionable society. For a time the eyes of the whole world were centered on her, first on account of the prominency of her family, and second, on account of her womanly personality. It might be said of her, at one time, that she was the belle of civilization. She was admired and respected by the best people on two continents. But there came an unfortunate day for her as well as for a large class of her admirers. She fell to smoking cigarettes, and even went so far as to say that she considered the habit ladylike. This she said without considering how much bad seed she was sowing for others to reap. Thousands of young ladies took up the habit of smoking cigarettes, not because they particularly liked smoking, but because they were weak enough to be induced to follow a foolish and hurtful example, set by a prominent young woman. In the course of a few weeks seeds of this kind were sown in every fashionable section in the United States, and to some extent in other countries.

I am told of another instance of seed sowing. A mother moved into town with her two talented and beautiful daughters. The mother was one of those sensible women who believe in preparing girls for unselfishness in the world, rather than for fashionable society. As was her custom, she dressed her girls plainly, but neatly and well. They wore good clothing, but the garments were plainly made. When the two strange girls appeared in school there was no little

sensation among the fashionable girls. They gradually drew apart from the new girls, and practically left them without any association among what were known as the best girls in school. This so mortified the two girls that they in tears plead with their mother to either dress them as the other girls were attired, or not ask them to go to school any more.

The mother knew a good thing when she saw it, and further knew that with care the fittest would survive. So she had a good, motherly talk with the girls, and told them, that they did not move into town with a view of being wrongly moulded by people who were not doing the right thing, but their purpose should be to stand for the right and that which is sensible, and help others to reach a higher and better plane of living. Instead of having the fashionable mould her girls, she insisted on her girls, she insisted on her girls moulding them, if such a thing should be possible.

The girls caught the spirit of their wise mother. Continuing their school work, they secured the best grade in the school and were soon looked upon as the brightest and best-behaved girls in town. They made a record in their studies that placed them at the head of everything in school. In a short time other girls sought their society and help, and it was not many months until all the best girls began to dress plainer, and in time the town became noted for its sensible, intelligent and cultured young women. All of this came from sowing the right kind of seed. It certainly pays to sow good seed.

NEWS ITEMS

NOTICE

The Bible Study Board has available upon request, lesson sheets for the Primary classes. Each lesson consists of a short story and a picture to color. Teachers make your requests to:

Bro. Fred Pifer
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Heartaches and Joys

It has been a year of many heartaches and joys but let us remember God has not promised us all joy and happiness. It came to our mind the tremendous heartache our Father must have for His human creation after all He has done for us. He saw His only beloved Son die that cruel death so we could have joy forever more.

We saw the passing of our loved ones this year, Elder Allen Eberly, Sis. Anna Keller, Bro. Robert Stauffer and Bro. Randy Shaffer, but the joy to know they loved the Lord. The joy in knowing

this gives us that great hope of seeing them again in that most wonderful reunion with our Wonderful Savior.

Our hearts were made to rejoice to see Royal Keller, son of Bro. Fred and Sis. Lorraine Keller answer the call to come to Him this summer. In our fall meetings, Krista Eberly, daughter of Elder Allen and Sis. Martha Eberly stood for the Lord. Nathanael Fidler, husband of Sis. Michele (Castle) Fidler was also baptized before they were joined in marriage this fall. We rejoice with all these new lambs in Christ. Lets pray for them to remain strong and faithful.

The heartache is real for those who are missing but we are thankful for those who are added to our family at Lititz.

Sis. Sheila Stauffer and children, Heather and Andrew, moved to the Englewood, Ohio Congregation, close to her parents. They will always be remembered at Lititz for the strong faith and strength in the time of losing their loved one. May God bless them and keep them close to Him.

Bro. Nathanael and Sis. Michele Fidler are now at Lititz. Sis. Rebecca Pifer from Dallas Center, Iowa moved to Lancaster County and is now attending at Lititz. We are happy to have these members with us.

The heartache Christ must have felt when He said, "Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!" Luke 13:34.

The joy we can have by accepting Him is unspeakable! "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces;..." Isaiah 25:8.

There is coming a time when all grief will be banished and there shall be endless joy. How wonderful that will be! Lets never cease to Praise Him for all He has done for us in time of Sorrow or Joy.

Sister Dorcas Myers, Cor.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The Editor and his family wishes to extend to all warm greetings at this season. We are thankful for the help along the way and especially for your prayers.

Looking back we thank each writer for contributing material, each correspondent for sharing your congregation's news and each agent for forwarding the subscriptions for your congregation, and each reader for letting us come into your home.

In the New Year we look forward to having material from those who have not contributed before. We wish for your continued prayers in our behalf.

The Editor

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 1994

Jan. 2 - The Ascension of Jesus - Acts 1:1-14.

1. What were the "infallible proofs" Christ used to "show himself alive"?
2. What promise did Christ give concerning His Ascension? John 16:7.

Jan. 9 - Mathias Chosen - Acts 1:15-26.

1. What was the means by which they "appointed" Joseph and Mathias?
2. By what means did they "give forth their lots"?

Jan. 16 - The Coming of the Holy Spirit - Acts 2:1-13.

1. What were the signs of the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost?
2. What are the expressions and proofs of the Spirit's presence in our lives today?

Jan. 23 - Peter's Pentecostal Sermon - Acts 2:14-36.

1. Why did Peter begin the message with a review of prophecy?
2. How did Peter prove the Lordship of Jesus Christ?

Jan. 30 - Conversion; Baptism for the Remission of Sins - Acts 2:37-47.

1. What was the promise Peter shared with those obedient in baptism? verse 38.
2. What four ingredients given in verse 42 helped the early church grow?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 1994

Jan. 2 - Our Birthright - Gen. 25:27-34, John 7:38-39, John 8:27-28, Heb. 11:24-26, Heb. 12:16-17.

1. How would you describe our spiritual birthright?
2. How is our spiritual birthright similar to that given by the patriarchs?

Jan. 9 - The New Birth - Ezek. 36:26-28, John 1:13, John 3:3-8, Rom. 6:4-6, II Cor. 5:17, I Peter 1:23-25.

1. How would you explain the New Birth?
2. What are the fruits of the new life?

Jan. 16 - The Baptism of Christ - Matt. 3:13-17, Luke 3:21-23, John 1:29-38.

1. Why was "the Sinless One" baptized?
2. How important is water baptism?

Jan. 23 - Christian Perfection - Gen. 17:1-2, Matt. 5:48, Matt. 19:21-30, II Cor. 13:11, James 1:4, James 2:21-24, Jams 3:2, Heb. 6:11.

1. What is our standard of perfection? Eph. 4:13.
2. How can we attain the "measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ"?

Jan. 30 - Investments - Matt. 6:19-24, Luke 12:29-37, Phil. 3:12-14, Rev. 3:16-18.

1. How can we make "Heavenly investments" while serving here on earth?
2. List some investments that will last for eternity?











